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RACKETS IN CANADA
AND THE
MONTREAL RACKET CLUB



Collins/21

RACKETS IN **C**ANADA
AND THE
MONTREAL **R**ACKET **C**lub

CHRISTOPHER G. MARKS

Foreword by Lord Aberdare

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of a Limited Edition of Five Hundred Copies

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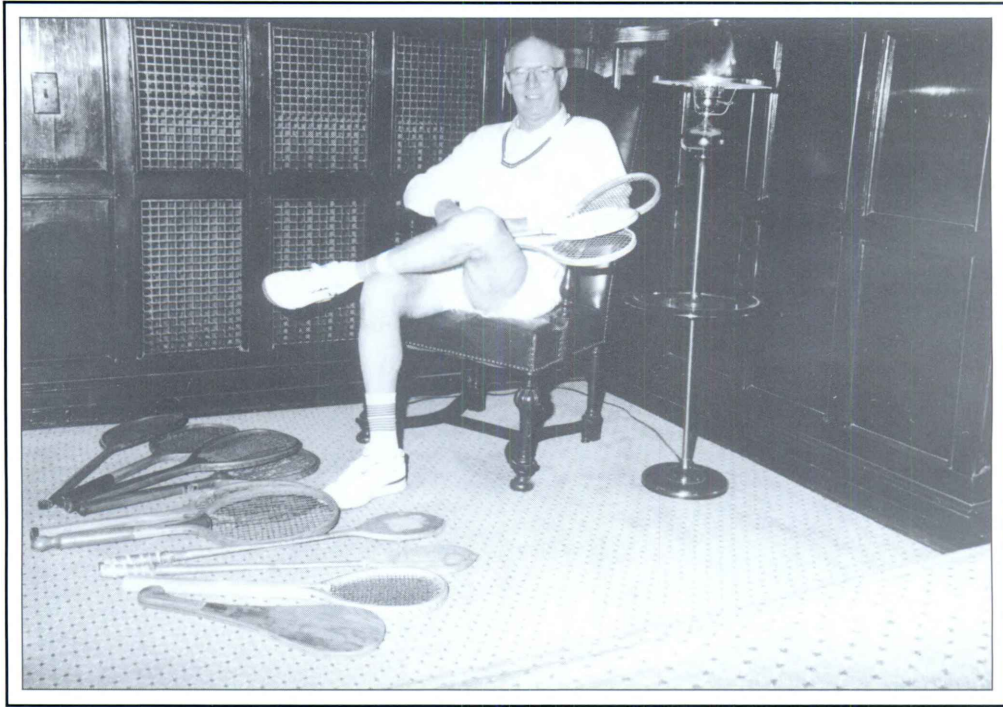
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To Lorne C. Webster

*Whose genuine interest in all racket sports and true sense
of sportsmanship have made this book possible*



FOREWORD

This splendid new book focuses on an essential segment in the jigsaw of rackets history. The development of this great game in Britain, Australia, and the United States has recently been thoroughly documented, and this book now completes the picture in the English-speaking world by detailing the growth of the sport in Canada.

The Montreal Racket Club is the oldest rackets club in existence and has produced many famous players over the years. It has hosted matches of great importance including several World Championships, and I am most proud of the fact that my father's name appears on the Board of Champions for 1930.

No library containing books on rackets or racket sports should be without this excellent work.

Lord Aberdare
May 1990

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

The inspiration to write a book on the history of rackets and the Montreal Racket Club crystallized in 1983 during a lunchtime discussion led by John Rolland at the club's round table. It centred on the fact that he had given valuable historical documents to Mr. Arthur Hills almost thirty years previously. Arthur, the self-appointed club historian since the 1930's, had started to gather material to write a book on the history of the club. The book never passed the rough manuscript stage, and Arthur Hills died in 1971. During his lifetime, however, he had been an obsessive record-keeper and had kept every scrap of paper from the day he joined the club. Unknown to the members of the club, he had submitted these volumes of paper to the Public Archives of Canada just before his death. Arthur Hills had provided a great service to the club and its history.

I discovered this collection through a curious route and owe a special thanks to the staff at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club who helped me trace the activities of Arthur's later years. When a box of photostats of Arthur's papers arrived at the club soon after, Ken Chantler nearly passed out from the \$100.00 charge while John Rolland's face lit up at the realization that his ancestors' personal papers had been located. The box of papers collected dust for another six years.

Almost eighteen months ago, the 100th year celebration commemorating the court on Concord Street came up for discussion at a directors' meeting. Plans for a tournament and social galas which were in keeping with the club's tradition were put forward.

To me, however, this was a perfect opportunity to continue the work that Arthur had started. The thought of exploring over one hundred and fifty years of rackets history in Canada and writing a book on it was a project worthy of self-pride. After meeting with fellow member and sport aficionado, Lorne Webster, we decided that the book should be written and made available to the rackets world and to other interested readers. It is a privilege to share this rich heritage with fellow members, and I trust that the book will make a meaningful and lasting contribution to a fine institution.

I have been wonderfully inspired by William Notman and his photos and by Canadian historians like Peter Newman. The more I delved into rackets in Canada, the more amazed I was at the vitality and influence of the players and their divergent backgrounds. Despite their varied histories, their one common interest lay in their love of the sport, and through their support, the game has survived. Today, the Montreal Racket Club is one of the oldest athletic clubs in North America.

In compiling this history of rackets in Canada, I have had the active cooperation of many fine people.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to my editor, Donna Prudhomme, whose focus on organization and whose constant reminder of one page at a time has made this whole project possible.

I wish to recognize the support of The Canadian Heritage of Quebec and the assistance of Michael Price in having the book published. Additionally, many thanks are extended to Sonia Silva, our typesetter.

Special thanks to Susan Wagg for her contribution in the chapter on the architecture of the building on Concord Street, to Esmond Choueke for his photographs of the club, and to Carlo Italiano, whose wonderful illustration has given a special uniqueness to the book. My sincere thanks as well to Lord Aberdare for his foreword.

This book would not have been produced without the generous support of Fred Langan, Duncan McNeill, Jamie McIntyre, and Peter Turner. The undertaking would have proven impossible without the emergency computer assistance of my brother, Michael, and Bruce Campbell.

From the Racket Club, I acknowledge all those members who generously offered written or verbal material, in particular, Tommy MacDougall, "Choppy" Dobell, Ken Chantler, and the Rolland family. I apologize to anyone whose contributions were not included due to the limited space requirements. My thanks also to the members of the Hoods who made early morning rides a pleasure.

From across Canada, many historians and archivists were contacted. They provided invaluable assistance in tracing the roots of the sport in the early garrison towns. In particular, my thanks to Sylviane Dubois from the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec in Quebec City. Without her, there would not have been a section on the fine history of rackets in Quebec City. Other people who have helped include R.H. McDonald in Halifax, Remi Chenier in Quebec City, Margaret Houghton in Hamilton, Barbara Mallette in Kingston, Dale Mumford, R.H. Roy and F.D.H. Nelson in Victoria, and Peggy Smith at CFB Chilliwack.

In Montreal, my thanks to Nora Hague at the Notman Collection of the McCord Museum, to the staff at McGill's Rare Book Department, and to Nellie Reiss at the McGill University Lande Collection.

I also convey my thanks to staff members of the Public Archives in Ottawa, the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, and the Archives nationales de Québec for their courteous and efficient aid.

Finally I owe my deepest respect to my wife, Alison, and to my children, Stephanie and Nicholas, who patiently put up with my daily disappearances early in the mornings and late into the nights.

Good reading and "Serve up".





PROLOGUE

April 1896

Concord Street Court, Montreal

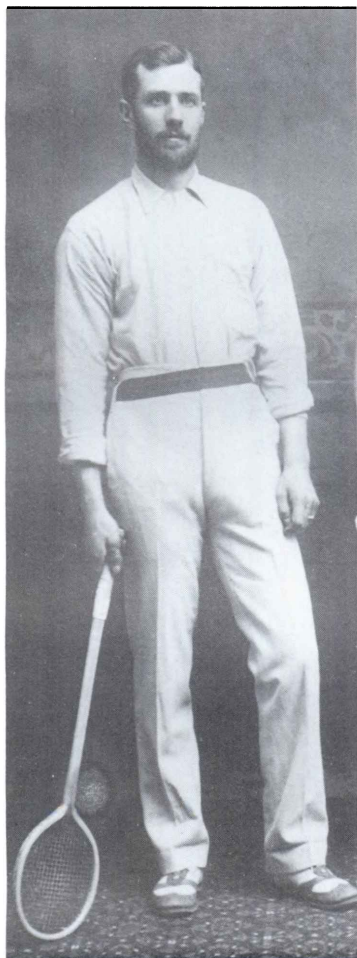
THE WHITE, KID LEATHER COVER OF THE rackets ball took on another scratch of grey as it ricocheted off the side wall and headed for the catgut of Frank Rolland's racket. He smashed the tiny ball back into the front wall. It rebounded like a lightning strike straight at defending champion, William Miller.

Outside, the temperature was below zero fahrenheit; snow had been falling for days. Although it should have been spring by now, winter still cast her mantle over the city. Just after noon, the court had been darkened by heavy snow on the skylight above. The start of the match had been delayed while the caretaker went up to the roof, removed the snow, and restored light to the court.

Inside, in the two galleries above the court sat the richest, most powerful men in the country – the financiers, merchants, and railway builders who had made their fortunes in this most prosperous corner of the British Empire.

These men, members of the Montreal Racket Club, had received their notices announcing the championship match accompanied by invitations to the President's Lunch. At noon, a special meal of "beef and greens" washed down with pitchers of "Black Velvets", a mixture of champagne and stout, was served in the dining room. The usual story-telling which followed the dinner was passed up today in honour of the occasion. This

*(Opposite) The gallery awaits
the start of a final match
at the Montreal Racket Club*



*Albert Bridger
The Montreal Racket Club
professional who had been
brought to Canada in 1881
by F.M. David*

was the day of the Club Championship match between the two top players in Montreal, W.R. Miller and F.F. Rolland.

William Miller, the current Club Champion, was a formidable adversary. With his speed and skills, Miller ranked among the best of Canadian competitors.

The Montreal club had adopted the same process for determining their champion as the English had developed for the crowning of the World Champion. Several contenders would play each other for the privilege of challenging the current titleholder. Thus, Miller would have to play only one match, or the best of five games, to defend his title.

There was only one man in the club who could hope to challenge Miller's title. This was Frank Rolland, thirty-four years old, the grandson of Judge Jean Roch Rolland. The elder Rolland had acted as Chief Justice of the Court of the Queen's Bench in Montreal during the 1837 rebellion and had been on the membership roster of the Montreal Racket Court in 1847. Frank Rolland had first played rackets at the old court located on St. George Street. Here, the court professional, Albert Bridger, had painstakingly honed Rolland's talents to such a level that he was now considered one of the finest rackets players in North America. Under the guidance and watchful eye of Bridger, Rolland had perfected his skills to the point where the student thoroughly dominated the professional.

During the preliminary rounds, played from December through March, Rolland had lost only two games in his quest to challenge for the Club Championship. His opponents during the challenge rounds had been F.E. Meredith, A.A. Allan, and A.D. MacTier. He had convincingly defeated each of them in turn.

Throughout the long winter months, there had been eager anticipation of the upcoming championship match between Miller and Rolland. The gallery would not be disappointed.

The two players entered the court, each having been permitted the traditional warm-up. The president of the club, Mr. H. Montagu Allan, introduced the players, the referees, and the marker, Albert Bridger, to the members and guests crowded into the galleries. He announced that the championship was to be decided in favour of the player winning the best of five games, and that the match would be governed by the rules of the Prince's Club.

The players, dressed in white, stood out in relief against the slate-grey backdrop of the court. Their heavy flannel shirts and long pants were already dampened by the cold chill. The temperature had remained well below normal for the past several weeks as Montreal experienced an unusually severe winter. Inside the unheated court, the walls sweated with condensation. This moisture would ultimately affect the play and would prove dangerous to the players' footing. The shoes worn by the players were similar to present-day saddle shoes, having thick, crepe-rubber soles to provide surer footing.

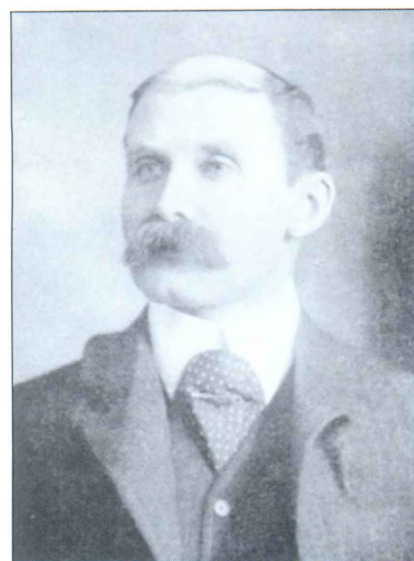
The marker sat in a small cubbyhole to the side of the gallery above the court. He would call every shot of the match due to the dangers associated with the speeding ball. He signalled for the spin of the racket to determine the first server.

The service was won by the defending champion, Miller. As a player can win points only while holding service, Miller was able to run up an insurmountable lead in the first game by scoring aces in his first two serves. Rolland, who had not faced such strong-serving competition, appeared disoriented and off-balance. He had extreme difficulty in hitting solid returns. The gallery sensed a rout as the score of the first game ended at 15-4 in Miller's favour.

Miller had great natural talent, possessing a backhand of rare quality. In a merciless mood, he once again stamped his authority quickly on the match and clearly outplayed Rolland. It was not until the middle of this second game that Rolland began to develop a steadiness which was highlighted by hitting clean, hard, low shots. His growing confidence precipitated some of the best rallies of the match thus far.

Gaining momentum in the second game, Rolland gradually drew even at 14. According to game rules, the player who has been tied at 14 has the choice of calling "no set" or "set 3". Miller, having been tied, called "set 3". After several outstanding rallies, and with Miller on the defensive, Rolland played with ever-increasing determination. He tied the match at one by winning the second game 17-16.

By the third game, Rolland had begun to control the rallies with his overpowering backhand volleys and well-placed angle shots. The players dazzled the spectators with magnificent shots and again, the game went to set. This time, tied at 13-13, Miller's options were "no set", "set 3", or "set 5". He called



*H. Montagu Allan
Montreal financier and
rackets enthusiast*

for "set 5". Rolland, taking advantage of his stronger service, won the game 18-15.

The fourth game saw the contender, Rolland, at his best, making many brilliant, killing shots. However, Miller, the great champion that he was, roused himself to make a splendid showing and won the fourth game 17-14, the third game to go to set. The players had been in the court for over two hours.

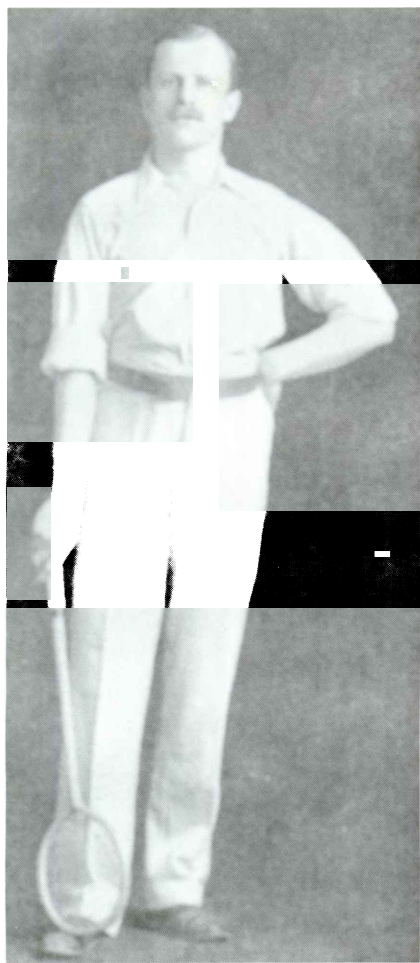
Rackets requires intense staying power. There are no pauses for rest periods and the rules clearly state that if a player so much as leaves the court, he automatically defaults the game.

The long rallies and punishing returns were beginning to take their toll on the players, both physically and mentally. The deciding factor in this match would be sustained strength. Both players had replaced a number of rackets which had shattered under impact in the brittle cold. There were upwards of one hundred dead balls at the front of the court accumulated in the grating. Balls could be changed at the receiver's request at any time before service by his calling to the marker, "New ball, please."

The staff at the bar filled orders as quickly as the ball rebounded back and forth in the court. The betting line on the match had changed to dead even, and still the snow kept falling. The spectators, many of whom wore hulking coats of buffalo or raccoon, were chilled to the bone. They huddled even closer. Suspense hung from the rafters. All was ready. The marker announced the score in a dignified tone, "Two games all, final game, gentlemen," and threw down a new ball to Mr. Miller.

The greatest of court games had thrilled the crowd on Concord Street on this bitterly-cold, winter afternoon. What further rallies could stir the players and spectators to even higher levels of exhilaration and exhaustion. The struggle was dead even at two games apiece, the championship in the balance. The months of preparation had come down to this one final game.

The ball smashed into the front wall and skidded off the slick floor to start the game. The pace of the rallies was unrelenting. Time and again, both players made incredible gets off the back wall or took half-volleys at mid-court. Miller, having won the fourth game, maintained his momentum and soon took a commanding lead. Rolland, however, doggedly fought back to



*W.R. Miller
Many-time Club Champion*

even the score at 11. Miller won service with a tremendous cross-corner bullet which his opponent was unable to reach and then proceeded to win the next two points. The score was 13-11, the champion now only two points from winning the final game and retaining his title.

Rolland dug even deeper and returned an incredible winner on the next serve; with his lethal cut service, he took the next two points. The score stood at 13 all. Miller once again had the call for set. He had let Rolland catch him and was now struggling. Instead of calling "set 3" or "set 5" as was his choice, he announced "no set", gambling on the hope of regaining service on the next point. The boisterous, foot-stamping crowd fell silent, anticipating the next swing of the racket. After two and a half gruelling hours of competition, and with a total of 142 points marked up, only two points now separated winner from loser.

Had Miller given up – even though a set could be reset at 14 – or had he taken a calculated risk in attempting to shorten the finish? The Prince's Club rules endorsed the two-serve format: if the first delivery was a fault, the receiver could choose to either play the ball or let the fault stand. This would invariably pressure the server to make his service accurate on the first attempt.

Rolland moved into the service box on the forehand side of the court. He shook the numbness from his head and tried to ignore the cramping of his legs, made worse by the sweat and dampness. He knew that a clean, well-cut ball with good speed would win the point. All eyes were riveted on Rolland as he crushed the tiny ball toward the slate front wall above the crimson service line. The sound of the ball hitting the wall echoed like a crack of gunfire. The ball cleared the line by a fraction and caromed off the side wall onto the back wall. With the cut Rolland had applied, the ball rebounded from the wall onto the floor and angled away from Miller. The gut webbing of his racket made contact with the ball, yet Miller could make only a weak, defensive return into the side wall. The momentum of his swing could not carry it to the front wall, and the thump as it hit the telltale echoed throughout the court. Miller had taken the risk and lost. He now had nothing to counter with when Rolland served his final ace to win the match.

The gallery exploded into a thunderous ovation in appreci-



*Frank Rolland
Miller's arch-rival*

ation of the most exciting play ever witnessed in the court. The final score of the fifth game was 15-13 for F.F. Rolland; the match ended at 4-15, 17-16, 18-15, 14-17, 15-13. A new champion had arrived on the Canadian rackets scene. He would make his mark as one of the top North American players over the next thirty years.

It can never be determined how many more matches, points, gets, serves, rallies, aces, and volleys were witnessed and applauded from the date of this match. Over the next one hundred years, however, all of the gentlemen privileged to enter the Concord Street court, either as players or spectators, could agree with a comment made by former World Champion Willie Surtees. "There is nothing quite like sending a rackets ball on its punishing way for a pure winner."

Waiting for the service



Decide the Single Champions for the Year

AFTER A VERY CLOSE GAME

**Lacrosse Men Getting Ready—Notes
for the Wheelmen—The Baseball
Record—Turf News.**

The members of the Montreal Racket Club who had the good fortune to be present yesterday afternoon in the gallery, saw some of the best matches ever played by amateurs in Canada. It was not only a good match; it was a surprisingly good one, and, as will be seen, a very close one.

Mr. Rolland and Mr. Miller were playing for the annual championship, and Mr. Rolland won the deciding game. Three sets had to be played to arrive at decisions in the second, third and fourth games, two of these being won by Mr. Rolland.

At the first of the score, however, was that although Mr. Rolland won the match by three games to two, Mr. Miller had a majority of eight in the market. The game was a rattling hard one from start to finish, and it was to neither gentleman, however, seemed up to their usual standard; in fact it was a court play all through, very fast and very trying. Some of the rallies were of an exceptional length.

At several instances as many as seventeen strokes being counted. Perhaps it was the rapidity of service that accounted for its not being up to the form that both gentlemen usually bring to the match, but it was a work hard; for the players, but decidedly interesting for the spectators. The first game was a surprise to the admirers of Mr. Rolland, who evidently had not warmed up until the second game, which was in favor of Mr. Miller.

In the second game the match began. The nervousness was all over and both played a steady, well judged game, which ended 14, 11. The set and third game was played by Rolland, and the third game was a hard fight, though and even played. Another set was necessary when 13 all was called. Mr. Rolland won by 5 to 2. In the fourth game Mr. Rolland started out remarkably well, and soon got a lead of seven to love, and at 12-10, and then brought it to 14, and in the set Mr. Miller beat his opponent 3 to love. This left two games won each, and the next would decide the matter. The enthusiasm was intense, and the spectators were all on their feet, and nervous. Mr. Rolland's strong play made things look dubious for Mr. Miller's admirers, for when the latter had two aces to his credit, Mr. Rolland had 11. Steady, although not so rapid, as the first game, he brought the mark to 12-13, and then to 14, when Mr. Rolland put in the two aces necessary to win. It was a great game, of which both competitors have reason to be proud.

It was a great reference to a most satisfactory manner by Mr. Arthur Abbott, and the market was Albert Bricker.

After tea the ladies went back to the gallery to witness the match between Mr. F. E. Meredith and Mr. A. E. Abbott for a prize presented by Mr. W. R. Miller. Mr. Abbott, the ex champion, conceded three aces to Mr. Meredith, but the latter was able to win the games, the last one of which was particularly well contested. Among the ladies and gentlemen who filled the gallery were noticed: Mrs. W. R. Miller, Mrs. F. Rolland, Mrs. Mrs. W. Montague Allan, Mrs. A. Patter- son, Mrs. J. W. McCall, Mrs. J. W. McCallum, Mr. George and the Misses Gillespie, Miss Drury, Miss Robertson, Miss Coch- rane, Miss Clouston, Miss Buchanan, Mrs. Tait, Mrs. and Mrs. McTier, Mrs. Meredith, Mrs. J. W. McCall, Mrs. J. W. McCall, Mrs. Meredith and Miss Meredith, Mr. and Miss Eadie, Mrs. A. McKim, Miss Stearns, Mr. Allan McKenzie, Mr. C. de B. Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Fulton, Mr. J. B. Ab- bott, J. B. Hooper, N. Turner, T. S. Gilles- pie, W. W. Yarker, W. Yarker, D. C. Miller and many others.

The match for the junior championship had been exciting a great deal of attention, and Mr. Heneker was looked upon as a certainty, as he was beaten last year by only a very small margin by Mr. Ashe. His present illness, however, will prevent his competing, and it is generally thought that Mr. McKim will be the likely man, as he won the junior blind handicap. The senior annual handicap promises to be more than usually interesting. The first round was won by Mr. McTier from A. E. Abbott, and the drawings in the second round are:

the drawings in the second round are:
A. A. Allan vs. F. E. Meredith.
J. B. Abbott vs. W. R. Miller.
Mr. McTier will play the winner of the Allan-Meredith match, while the winner of the Abbott-Miller match will have a bye. Following is the score:—

Game.	Rolls.		Sets.	
	Roll-land.	Miller.	Roll-land.	Miller.
First.....	4	15	..	2
Second.....	14	14	3	2
Third.....	13	13	5	2
Fourth.....	14	14	0	3
Fifth.....	15	13	..	..
.....	60	69	8	7
.....	8	—	..	..
.....	68	76	..	..

Senior Championship 1896						
DATE	NAME	AGES	TOTAL	HANDICAP	WON	LOST
Entries						
	77 Rolland					
	W. Meredith					
	A. A. Allan					
	A. D. MacTier					
Matches						
	77 Rolland	15 15 10 15			1	
	W. Meredith	3 1 15 8				
	77 Rolland	15 15 15			1	
	A. D. MacTier	6 4 5				
	W. Meredith	3 1 18 8			1	
	77 Rolland	15 15 10 15				
	A. D. MacTier	6 4 5			1	
	77 Rolland	15 15 15				
Final Match.						
	W. R. Miller, holder	15 16 15 17 13				
	77 Rolland, challenger	4 17 18 14 15				
Champion, 1896						
	77 Rolland					

(Above) The series of matches that found F.F. Rolland as the new Club Champion

(Right) Newspaper account of the match in 1896



CHAPTER ONE

THE ORIGINS OF RACKETS

IT IS IRONIC THAT RACKETS, THE SPORT OF THE nineteenth century elite, traces its origins to the English jails and debtors' prisons, home to the bankrupt of the eighteenth century.

From before the time of Charles Dickens, the institution of debtors' prison had thrived in London. Men of both high rank and low unable to pay their debts were sent off to prison, only to leave when their debts had been repaid. Many of these debtors were dandified members of the local gentry incarcerated in London's famous Fleet Street or King's Bench Prisons. As they were generally not thought of as hardened criminals, they were afforded certain small luxuries by prison officials, such as permission to engage in outdoor games and almost unlimited time to play.

For their part, the detainees rose to the challenge of finding amusing diversions to pass the time. They resourcefully adapted their court tennis racquets, fabricated makeshift balls of cloth and twine, and devised a game to be played against the walls of the prison. This, then, was the true birthplace of rackets, a game invented by gentlemen in rather un-gentle surroundings.

Frederick W. Hackwood's *Old English Sports* presents a wonderful description of the development of the sport's rules as it evolved from an individual pastime to a game of skill for two players. This passage further illustrates the British sense of fair play.

The formulation of rules, when this exercise is elevated into an emulative game between two players, readily follows. The rule of equitable partition is first settled; there arises the regulation

(Opposite) A lively doubles match at debtors' prison, the birthplace of rackets

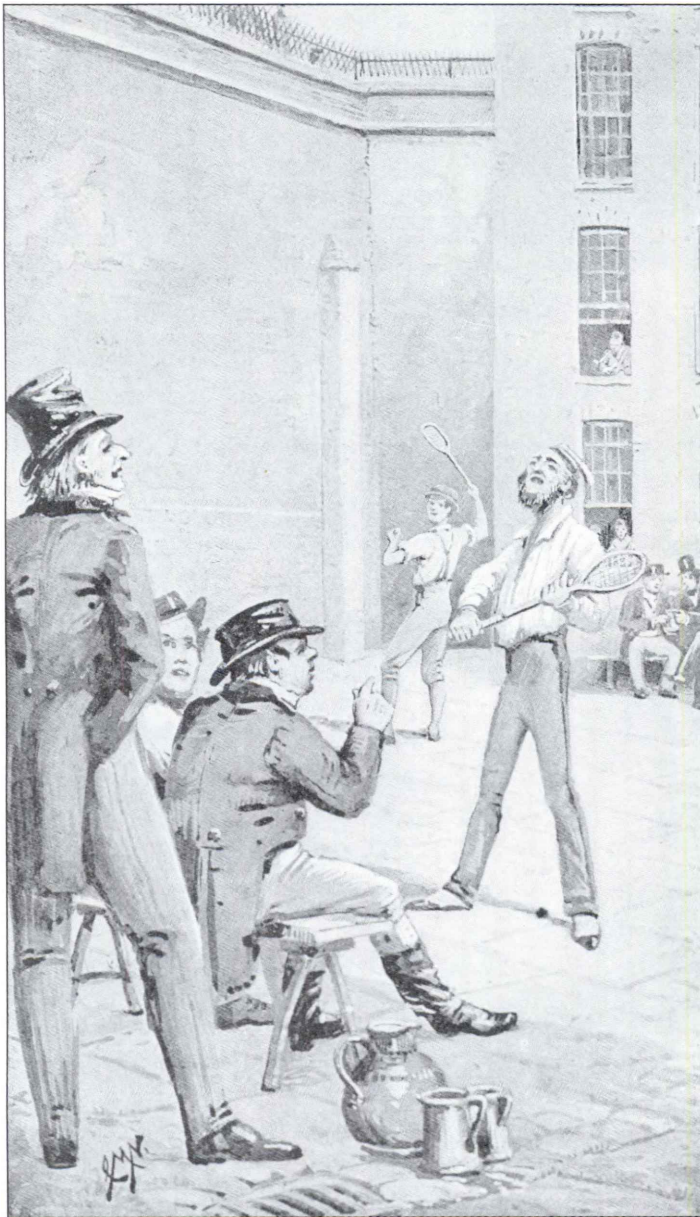
that neither shall have a greater share of hits than the other, and the principal of alteration is obtained. Equity next demands that the advantage of having the first hit and of standing in a certain place must be shared fairly. Then, more arbitrarily, it is agreed, in a praiseworthy desire to cultivate skill, that it shall be made a rule that the return, to be good in the counting of points, must be made before the ball has twice touched the floor. And thus (opines an acknowledged authority on the game) was the game of Rackets evolved.

So, too, Pierce Egan's article "The Game of Rackets", published in his 1832 *Book of Sports and Mirror of Life*, outlines the basic objectives of the early game of rackets, clearly differentiating it from its more familiar predecessor, court tennis.

The game of rackets is not like tennis, which is played by dropping a ball over a central net, on each side of which the players stand; but, at rackets, the ball is struck against what is called a head-wall, and returned at the bound to the same wall, each player endeavouring so to strike it against the wall that his adversary may not be able to return it; he who does not return it, either loses a point (or, as it is technically termed, 'an ace') or has his 'hand out,' that is to say, forfeits the situation in which he would be able to add to his score of the game. People, in general, are not aware of the skill required to play the game well, and the fact is, the better it is played the more easy it appears.

Prison proved to be an ideal location for the playing of rackets. The thick stone walls, towering some forty feet in the air, made perfect single-walled courts. Inevitably, the gradual refinement of the prison playing courts led to the development of even more exacting and well-defined rules.

Recognition of the game had gradually spread outside the prisons where rackets quickly earned a reputation as a thrilling spectator sport. As in any contest of skill, enterprising



Can Mr. MacCawber be far away?

sportsmen soon added interest to the game by setting handicaps and odds. There is little doubt that this added dimension of betting intensified the excitement of the fledgling sport.

Thus, rackets steadily gained a following. Rousing challenge matches were soon organized within the prison walls, much to the pleasure of visiting fashionable Londoners.

A passage from Pierce Egan's article "The Game of Rackets" illustrates the degree to which, by the early 1800's, attendance at rackets matches had taken on an important social significance for the upper classes. At the same time, it portrays an unexpected and outrageous side of prison life.

The GAME OF RACKETS was in high estimation, and very large sums of money were lost and won upon it.

The King's Bench Prison at that period was one continued scene of *gaiety* and *dash* – indeed, it was like any thing else but a place of confinement. The promenade, almost every evening, until the cry of 'all out' occurred, was a complete picture of *le beau monde*. It exhibited some of the most elegant dressed females in the kingdom; the finest, nay, fashionable women who felt not the slightest reproach by visiting their unfortunate friends in 'durance vile.'

The game of rackets was carried on with great spirit under the patronage of the above fashionable leaders; and the ground was frequently covered with visitors of the most elegant description to witness the trials of skill . . .

As the sport grew in respectability, so, too, did the importance of those individuals entrusted with the administrating and officiating of the game. A new position, that of prison *racket-master*, soon evolved and proved to be highly sought after. By 1814, there were six racket-masters overseeing play at the King's Bench Prison. One by the name of Hoskins, who was incarcerated for thirty-eight uninterrupted years, was able to send enough money out of prison to support a family of seven children.

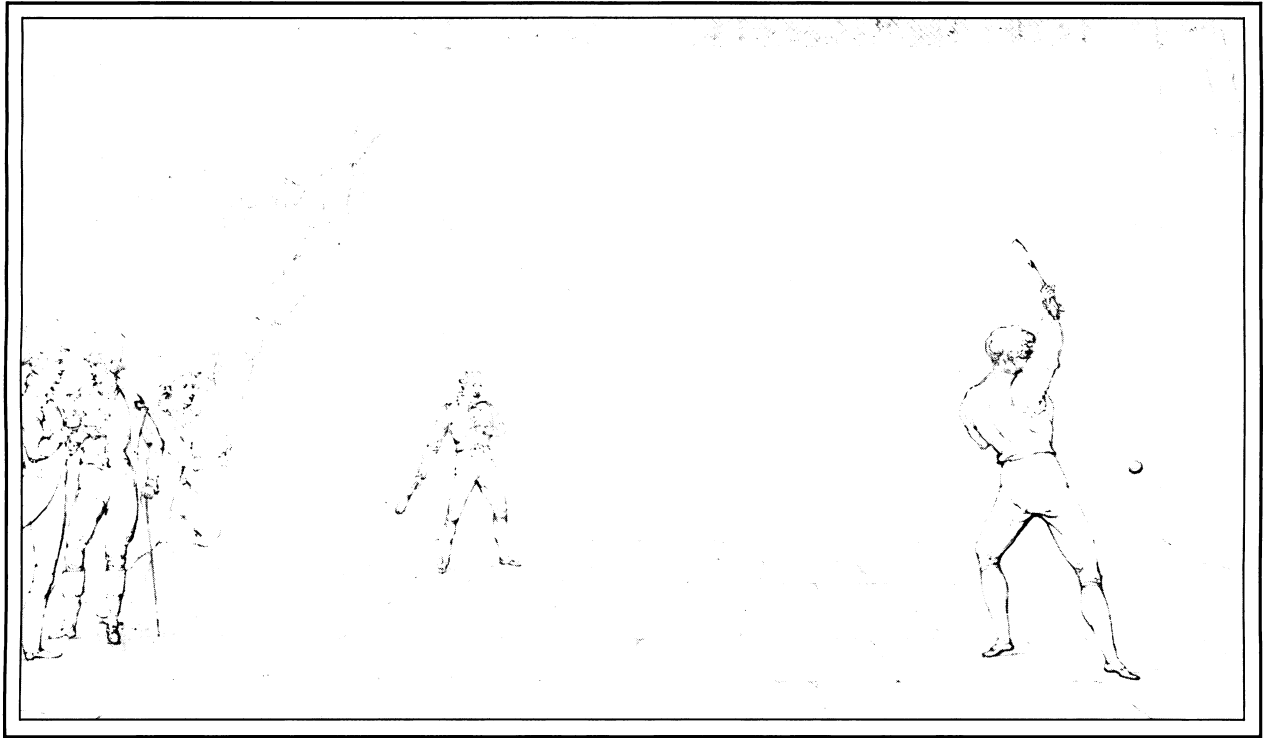
The prison racket-master was rarely idle. Each day, the bats or rackets had to be strung and the new balls prepared. Due to the speed of the balls and the potential danger to the competitors, the matches had to be called. From early morning until dark, the word "play" would echo throughout the prison courtyards. Other yells frequently heard in the course of a match were "over", meaning that a shot had landed beyond the back line of the simple court, and "gone away", signifying that a shot had sailed over the prison wall. At an annual clean-up held at King's Bench one year, approximately two hundred and fifty dozen "gone aways" were retrieved from adjacent roofs and gutters.

Rackets had become a thriving business, not only for skilled players and gamblers, but also for the individuals who prepared the courts and equipment. In fact, a government committee later reported on the payment structure and appointment of racket-masters in the prisons, recommending that regulations be adopted to control both this very profitable livelihood as well as the practice of gambling. It is ironic that many of those who had originally been imprisoned for gambling debts were able to legitimately continue betting within the jails. Perhaps a lucky rackets enthusiast could eventually earn his way out of his quandary.



The racket-master arriving at the lounge of Fleet Prison

Another paradox of the early sport lay in its acceptance in social circles. Although a gentleman would not hesitate to attend a match as a spectator (indeed, it was almost a social requisite), it was quite another matter for him to play the game. Any proficiency in rackets would most certainly indicate that he had resided in either the Fleet Street or King's Bench Prison for a time. For many years, then, a Londoner would not admit to his skill at the game for fear of bringing his earlier infamy to public attention.



*Rackets as played in
a London tavern*

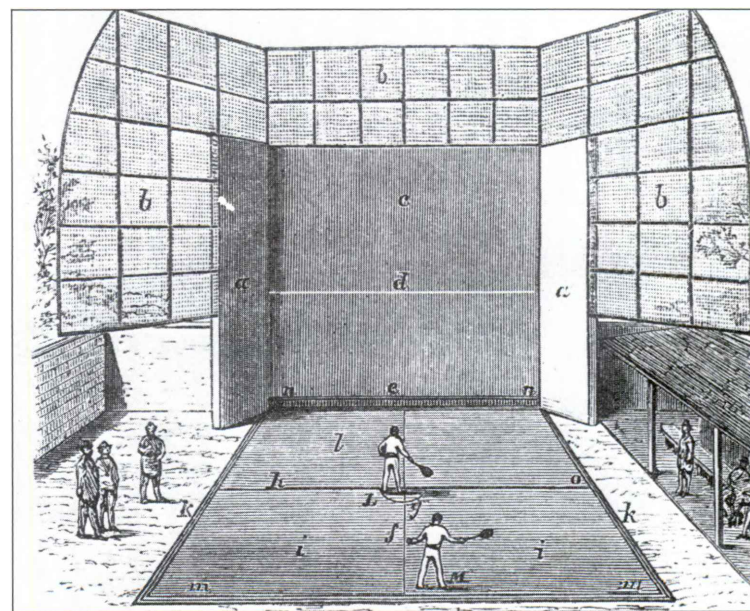
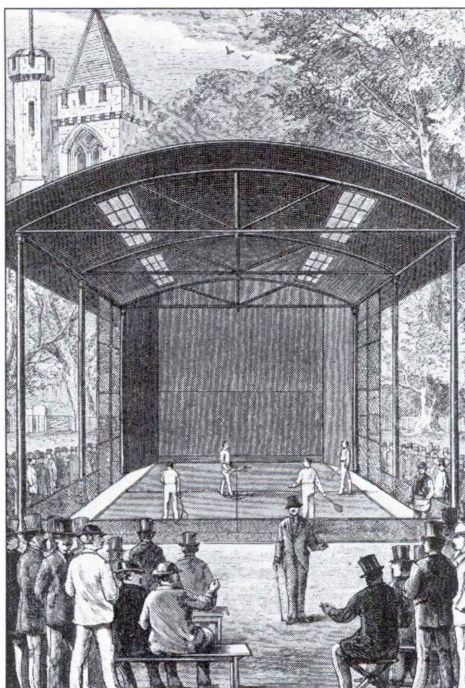
By the turn of the century, rackets courts had been built in some of the larger taverns in London. Drawn by the basic appeal and speed of the game, and stirred by the enticement of the wager, tavern-goers were immediately attracted to the new sport. Rackets and skittles, the forerunner of bowling, quickly became the two most important tavern games of the time.

Delabere P. Blaine's *Encyclopedia of Rural Sports*, published in 1840, details the various locations of rackets courts in London. It would seem, however, that playing the sport in taverns had its social drawbacks.

There are several open racket courts, independent of the King's Bench and the Fleet prisons, where gentlemen seldom go voluntarily for the sake of playing, although they take it now and then "upon compulsion." There is a good open court at the Belvidere, Pentonville; another at the Eagle Tavern, in the City Road; and the proprietor of White Conduit House has a third; but the fault of these places is, that the company is not sufficiently select, and that a gentleman, who is fond of the game (and all are fond of it who

can play at all), is there compelled to join a miscellany of very respectable persons no doubt, but not of the highest grade in society. As it is, the ardour of some individuals of rank and education in pursuit of the game, induces them to overlook the inconvenience to which we have alluded; and we must do the proprietors of the courts we have named the justice to say, that they do endeavour to keep persons of really questionable character at a distance.

The game continued to gain respectability as more and more gentlemen learned to play the sport. The one-walled courts of the prisons had given way to the three-sided courts of the taverns. These structures would, in turn, be replaced by completely enclosed courts. The building of new four-walled courts was likely one of the determining factors in limiting accessibility to the sport. As the game moved indoors, only a handful of athletes and spectators were able to enjoy the excitement of the game. Rackets had now truly become a pastime of the privileged.

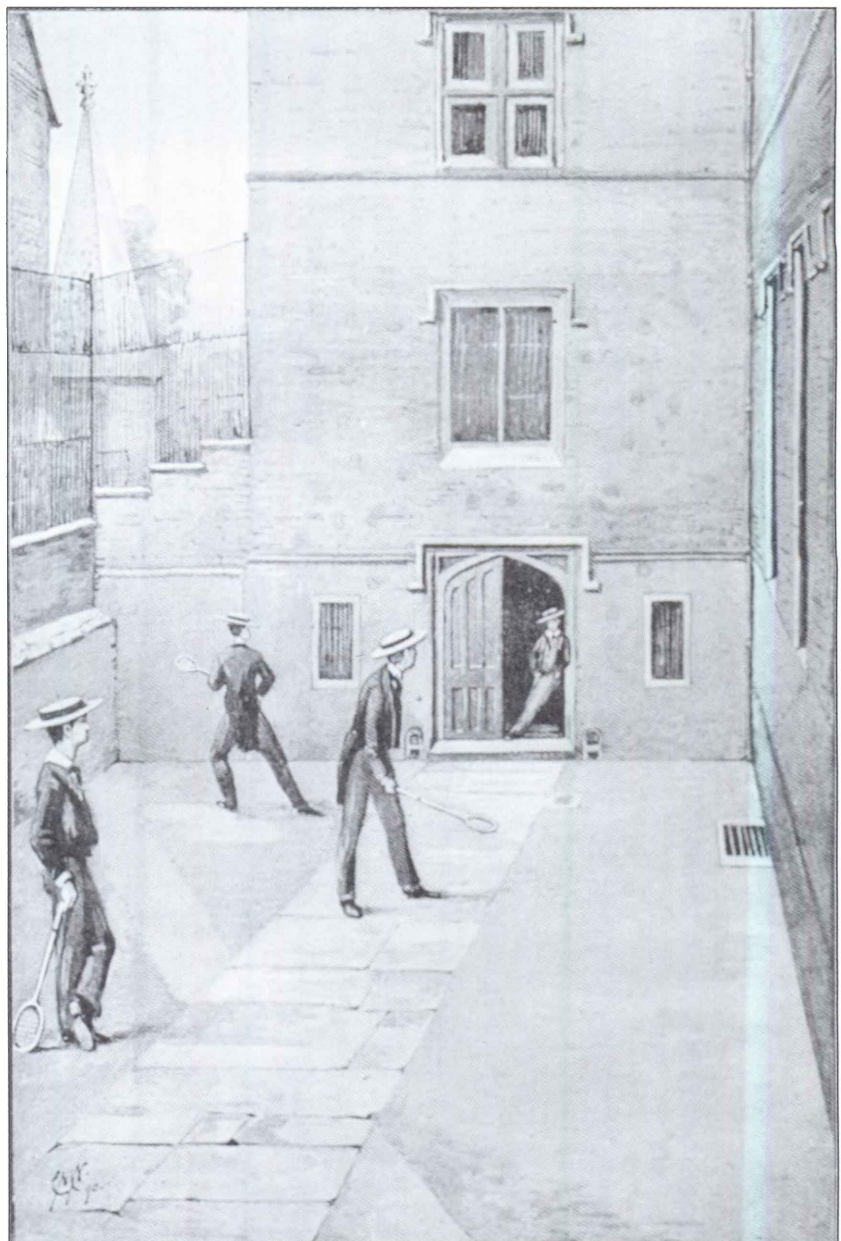


Open air courts before the game moved indoors

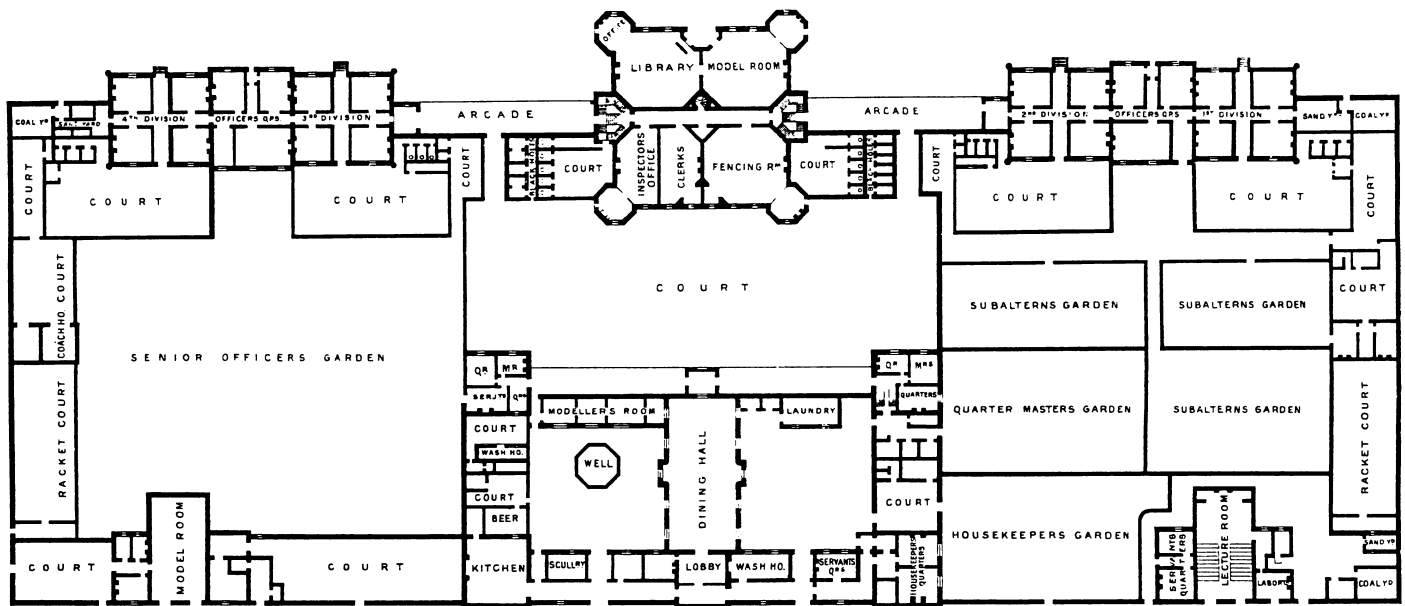
Two key developments occurred early in the nineteenth century which further established the eliteness of the sport. The first was the introduction of the game to Britain's exclusive public schools – Harrow being the first to construct a court in 1821.

The second, and most important for the sport's eventual introduction to Canada, was the building of a covered court by the Royal British Artillery at their Woolwich depot in London. Additional courts soon followed in various military centres.

Boys at Harrow practice against a wall. Harrow is one of the great training grounds for rackets.



ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY IN 1806.



GROUND PLAN OF THE WHOLE.

The seed had been sown for the introduction of rackets to Canada. Young men graduating from Harrow and other exclusive schools would join Britain's huge military machine. Trained in the military academies, their skills in rackets were honed and sharpened during their leisure time. These officers, taking English tradition with them as they travelled to the far-flung outposts of the British Empire, would actively pursue the pastimes they had enjoyed at home. Ball games were an important part of their heritage, and rackets courts were soon built throughout the Empire where they became important non-military additions to the garrisons.

The Royal Military Academy gave more space to courts than to classrooms



CHAPTER TWO

THE BRITISH MILITARY AND RACKETS IN CANADA

FROM THE MILITARY SCHOOLS OF ENGLAND TO THE far outposts of the British Empire, the officers of the English army were sent to rule the colonies. The battle for New France had been won in 1759 on the Plains of Abraham, and the colony had officially become British territory in 1763 as a result of the Treaty of Paris. Now came the task of governing, administering, and protecting this vast expanse of territory.

After the defeat of the French, the only serious threat to Britain's interests in the Canadas occurred during the War of 1812. During this conflict, the United States, acting as an ally of France, unsuccessfully attacked Canada in an attempt to gain control of the St. Lawrence River. In order to govern the new colony and, more important, to protect the interests of the Hudson's Bay Company, the British command quickly bolstered its network of forts and garrison towns. This served to both solidify its military strength and to provide local government for the new immigrants arriving from the British Isles. The strategic towns that were garrisoned were Halifax, the centre of naval activities, Quebec City, Montreal, and Kingston.

Providing the necessary infrastructure for the defense of the long border with the United States took a massive commitment of money and manpower from the British Crown. Thousands of troops were sent to man these forts and town garrisons. They were led by military officers, graduates of the finest English public schools.

Who were these officers of the Empire? What did they do when they arrived in a country that was not actively engaged in battle with foreign armies? Since initially there were no colonial hostilities, the army was encouraged to mix with the local population. The dull routine of military duty promoted

(Opposite) Britannia rules

the fervent pursuit of leisure-time sports and activities which were highly visible to the townfolks. The recreational contributions made by the military guaranteed a lasting place for sport in the developing colonial culture.

During the early 1800's, the townspeople looked to the British for sporting instruction and leadership. As the century progressed, sport became a more universal pastime, with civilian clubs sponsoring events for their military neighbours. These new associations welcomed military patronage because of the financial support and the link with England and British traditions.

The officers stationed in Canada had been educated in a system which stressed sport. It was believed that any athletic endeavour was an ideal testing ground for a young man. In sports, he would learn to meet challenges head-on and would be disciplined to apply himself to the task at hand. Englishmen lived for sport, so it was natural that a great deal of time and effort would be directed at recreating this aspect of English life in the colonies. Moreover, it was a welcome relief from the monotony of a soldier's life.

Rackets was only one of many sports introduced to Canada by the military officers. Along with the pursuit of cricket and equestrian sports, the true British loves, officers enjoyed a continuous schedule of unrestricted sporting distractions. One officer noted upon his arrival in the colony that there seemed to be "an epidemic of balls", while other reports listed boating, shooting, athletics, billiards, skittles, fencing, curling,

*British soldiers at play
in colonial Canada*



HAMILTON STEEPLE-CHASE; SECOND RACE; 'SKIRMISHER' GOING IN WINNER.



snowshoeing, skating, and feats of strength as excellent activities to relieve the tedium. There were also garrison theatres, gymnasiums, and select packs of hounds in the larger posts.

Being leisure-oriented, the officers generally whiled away the time, enjoying their existence in the British North American stations. That portion of the populace most influenced by the dashing redcoats was, of course, the young women of the garrison towns. Romance was high on the list of priorities for the officers, and there are reports of frequent winter picnics, skating parties, dances, whist parties, dinner parties, and sleigh rides. The “muffins”, as the single women in the towns were called, were constantly being entertained by the officers between the various matches and contests. It is surprising that there was any time left for military duty.

The high profile of the military, however, presented the local townsmen with a rare problem and no visible solution. Richard R. Preston in his book, *Kingston Before the War of 1812*, quotes one Kingston man as follows:

Your uncle is still laying siege for the fair Miss H. Smyth but I doubt of his succeeding to gain a Compleat Victory until some of those military

Montreal – “Muffins” on parade

cut are removed from here; they are continually dangling after her, and the whole of her Sex seems to be partial to the Scarlet.

and, from the diary of Forbes Geddes, a Hamilton resident:

Miss MacMurray has caught the military infection now raging in Hamilton – and who can wonder at it – the Officers form the almost sole topic of conversation – and each fair one dreams of her chance (however small) of becoming a soldier's bride.

The directives from British military headquarters at Horse Guards in London were clear: maintain manly exercises to build good morale and breed self-respect. It was held that the self-respect of the individual would generate corps morale, while corps morale would induce military pride. The commanding officers maintained that it was explicitly an officer's responsibility to actively participate and set an example for the rank and file.

Sir James E. Alexander, commander of the 14th Regiment, is quoted as follows in his treatise entitled *On Desertion in Canada*:

Further, a judicious Commanding Officer, well supported as he ought to be, by his officers and non-commissioned officers, will do all in his power to promote and encourage athletic and manly exercise. Cricket-grounds and rackets courts have been wisely ordered for the different garrisons; when they are prepared they will help materially the efficiency of the Service. Besides the outdoor sports in the spring, summer and autumn, of football, fives, quoits, running, pitching shot, swimming, cricket, etc., it would be well if an empty room in each barrack could be set apart for winter amusements, and keep active spirits out of the debasing tap-room. In this room, gymnastic poles, ropes, and ladders, might be put up to trifling cost; the athletes might leap, wrestle, spar,



play singlestick, or practice the bayonet-exercise with knobbed sticks; a non-commissioned officer, in charge of the room, instantly checking an ebullition of bad temper.

"The Officers' Trophy Room"
– note the rackets racket above
the buffalo coat

The officers posted to the colonies readily subscribed to the philosophy of their commanders in England, and on occasion, the milder local amusements met with disdain. It would seem that winter activities, in particular, were sometimes harshly criticized. In Robert Day's 1981 thesis *The British Army and Sport in Canada*, he examines colonial sports from the perspective of a disgruntled Sir Charles Chichester. According to Day,

. . . the Canadian sports scene was a poor substitute for the pastimes of Mother England. When stationed in Toronto in 1847, Chichester, a racquets enthusiast, was persuaded to accompany a party on a sleigh trip to Etobicoke Mills. Although he had never favoured sleighing, he decided to go. Afterwards, he confessed that he was disappointed with the muddy excursion:

The scenery was pretty enough, but to me decidedly the inside of a racket court is more interesting . . . I really was glad when we got into Younge Street and still more when I got home. I don't think I shall be tempted out again.

- from the "Chichester Diary", February 25, 1847



A sleigh ride during the long Canadian winter

By the middle of the century, the physical, social, and political importance of competitive sports such as rackets had been clearly established. *The Montreal Gazette* reported on April 19, 1847 that:

. . . Racquets provided a much needed measure of leisure for the people of the town and more importantly, promoted British spirit among the inhabitants. Not only was racquets calculated to improve "the frame" and "the mind", but it was a "truly British sport."

THE RACKETS COURTS OF CANADA

The courts built in the different garrison towns during the early 1800's were clearly dissimilar. Despite the efforts of the military command to standardize the construction of the ball courts, the individual barracks housed a collection of widely divergent facilities which were only somewhat similar to those in England.

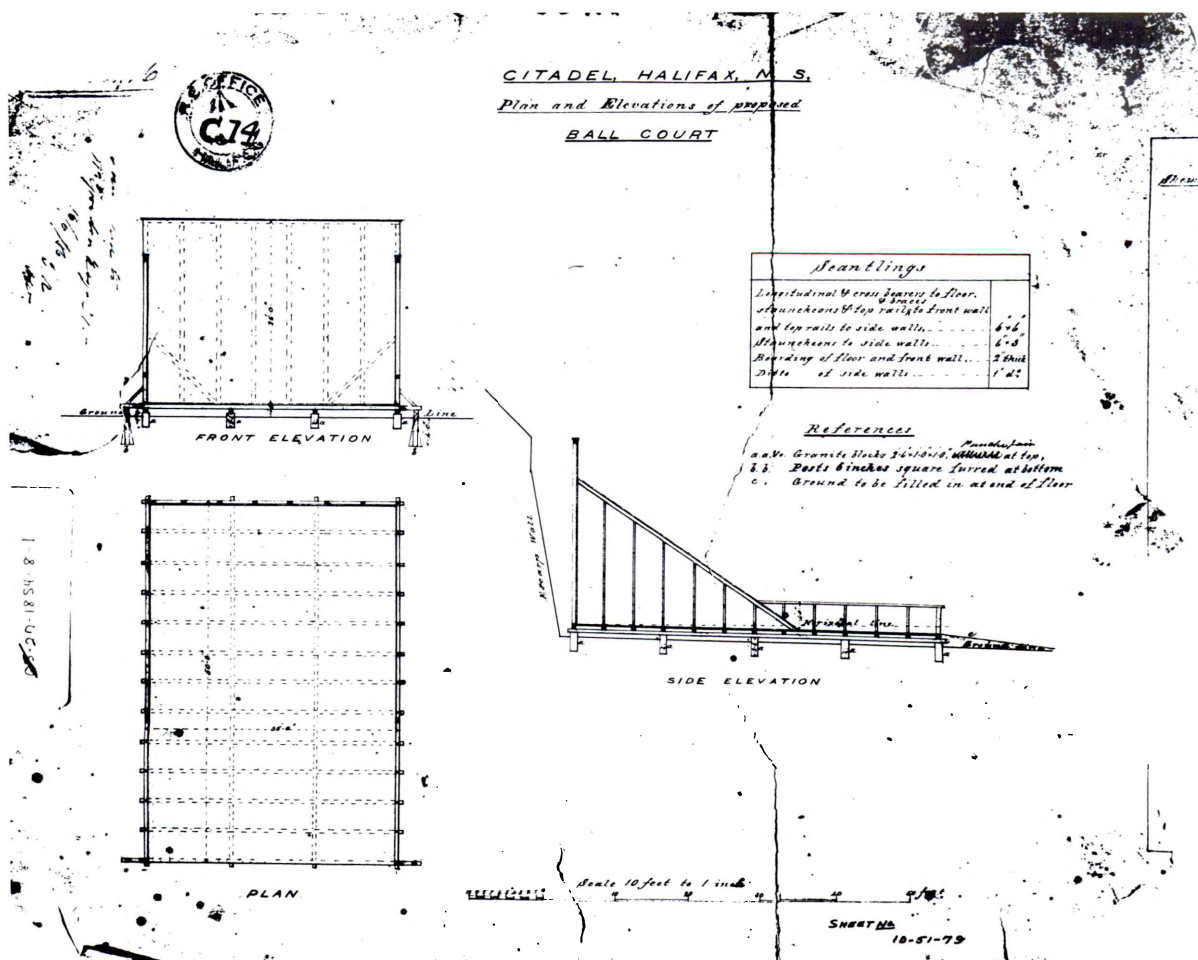
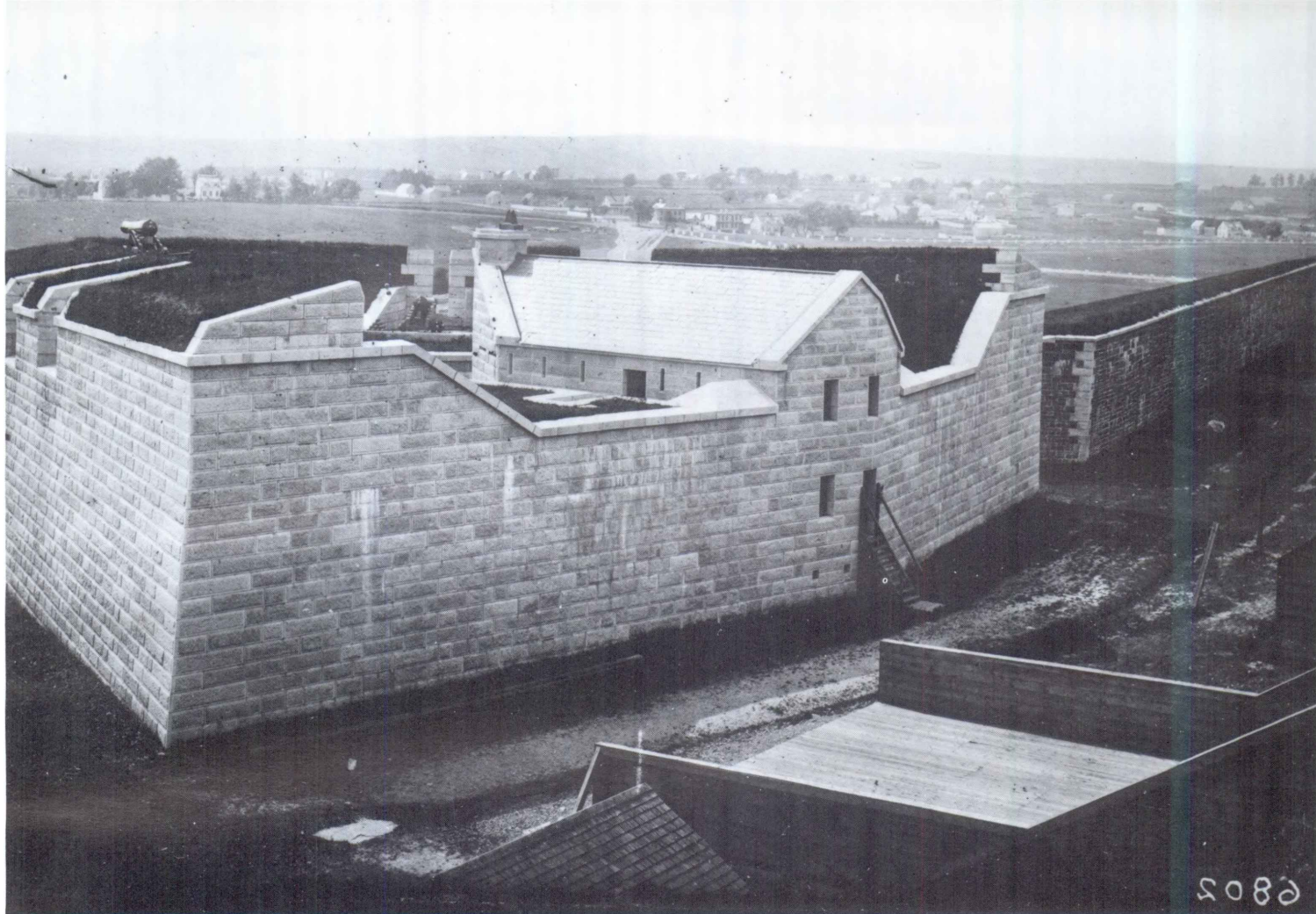
In British North America, the strategic importance of a town dictated the number of regiments that would be stationed in its garrison. With heavier defense required in Quebec City and Montreal, the sporting facilities established for their troops and officers were generally superior to those found in the smaller outposts such as Kingston and Hamilton.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

The first mention of a rackets court located in Halifax dates back to 1846 when it was described in a local newspaper that Joseph Howe, later to become one of the Fathers of Confederation, was snubbed and not permitted to play. The rackets court was quickly becoming a political arena, as illustrated in Robert Day's thesis:

The political character of the sharing of military sports facilities was cogently illustrated by an incident that threatened to strain civil-military relations in Halifax in 1846. On June 28, the *Morning Post* reported that, because of his political differences with the governor, Joseph Howe was not admitted into the military racquet court by the officers of the garrison when he attempted to join them for a friendly game of racquets. Sport had definitely assumed grave political overtones and the military were threatened with the defamation of their character at the hands of the enraged editor.

Halifax had two ball courts. The first, a wooden structure, was built in the ditch of the Halifax Citadel. It measured fifty feet in length by thirty-five feet in width and had a twenty-six



foot high front wall. From its photograph, it would appear to have been a fives court, given its sloping side walls which measure only four feet in height from the middle to the rear of the court. The date of construction is not recorded, and no traces of this court remain.

The second court built in Halifax was clearly constructed as a rackets court and was erected in the 1840's by the officers of the 2nd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade. The court, measuring sixty-three feet by thirty-one feet in area, was surrounded by walls approximately thirty feet high at the front and fifteen feet high at the back. This court was located on Cogswell Street across from the General Hospital and can be seen in the citadel's site plan of 1880.

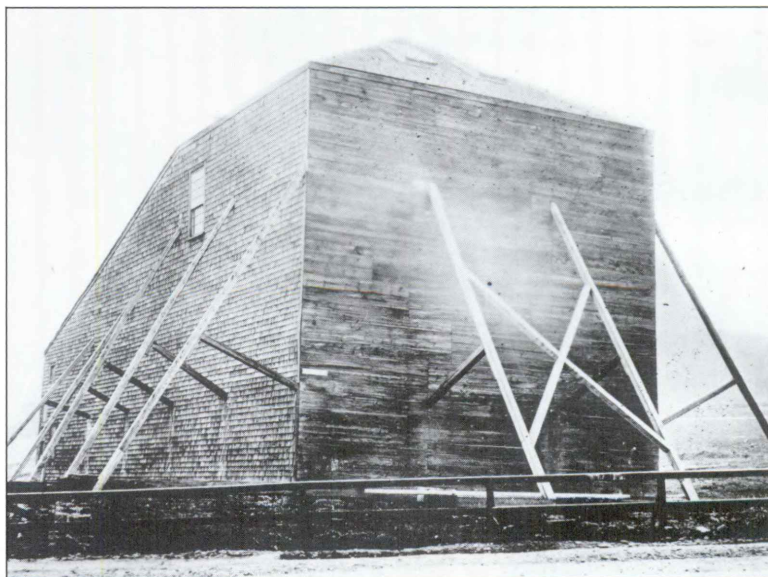
The troops were continuously encouraged to use this ball court. A garrison memorandum was issued by the Town Major's Office on July 1, 1856, reminding the troops of the availability of the court and outlining the appropriate procedures for its use:

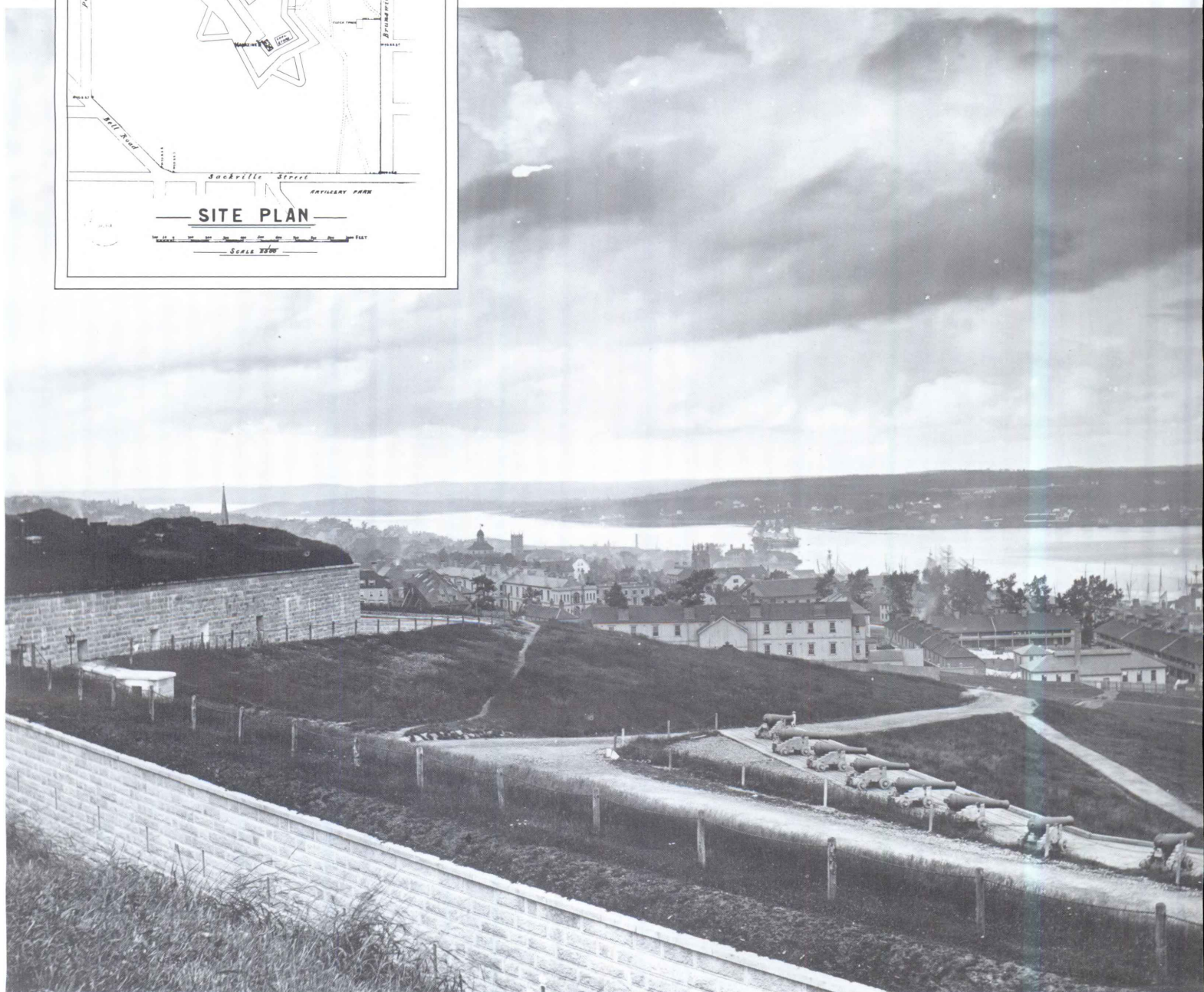
It is hereby notified to the Troops in the garrison that the Soldier's Ball Court is situated near the Hospital Guard which is at all times opened to the soldiers during their leisure hours; [those] wishing to play by applying to the Non Com officer of the Hospital Guard for the key, returning the same when done with.

(Opposite top) The ball court at Halifax Citadel

(Opposite bottom) Plan of the ditch court at Halifax Citadel

(Below) Exterior views of the Halifax rackets court built in 1840





Halifax during the nineteenth century

(Inset) The rackets court is near the top centre in the citadel site plan

This court was demolished in 1883. Newspaper articles indicate that a large military gymnasium was completed in 1902 on the site of the old rackets court.

KINGSTON, ONTARIO

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On August 11, 1841, a local merchant named William Hunt placed an announcement in the *Kingston Chronicle & Gazette* seeking a person to manage the rackets court that he was building on Barrack Street. Hunt was looking for someone of "active habits" and "good address" to lease the premises, develop the public's interest in the sport, and increase the list of subscribers.

Two years later, in April 1843, the club's secretary placed a notice in the Kingston newspaper, urging all members to attend a meeting. It would appear that this meeting, which likely concerned the flagging membership and the court's finances, did not go well. In July of 1843, the newspaper announced that the rackets court was to be auctioned off at a sheriff's sale.

Hunt was able to delay the sale for almost a full year, during which time, he actively sought new tenants for the buildings adjoining the court. Despite the threat of seizure, an advertisement appearing in the *Kingston Chronicle & Gazette* on November 8, 1843 confirms that Mr. Hunt had been successful in attracting some unusual lessors:

To Horse and Cattle Keepers

J. LEACH, Veterinary Surgeon, who has had
13 years steady practice in England,
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The combination of Hunt's financial problems and the likelihood of animals loose in the buildings finally motivated the sheriff to post a second notice of sale in May 1844. This was the last recorded evidence of the existence of a rackets court in Kingston.

HAMILTON, ONTARIO



*FW. Gates
Hamilton merchant and builder
of the city's only court*

In 1860, Frederick W. Gates, a wholesale dry goods merchant, petitioned the town council for permission to erect a wooden structure at the corner of McNab Street and Maiden Lane (now, Jackson Street). This building was to serve as the clubhouse for a rackets court. The Hamilton Racket Court, as it became known, first appeared on the City of Hamilton's assessment rolls in 1861. Mr. F.W. Gates, likely responsible for having had the court built in 1860, was listed as its first president.

The most exciting source of information on the club's history comes from the diary of Forbes Geddes, a Quebecer who had moved to Hamilton in 1861.

That portion of Mr. Geddes' diary covering the period from January to December 1862 gives a wonderful sense of his keen interest in rackets. Selected entries have been reproduced.

Wednesday, 15th January, 1862

. . . Played G.J. Forster 2 Rubbers at Rackets giving him 4 hands and won both – Received a rather severe blow on [the] cheek bone – last time I played [him], Forster also struck me on the back of head, raising a large lump.

Monday, 17th February, 1862

. . . Played Rackets with Capt. Slade – the Crack player of the Rifle Brigade. He is the best Military Racket player that has been in Canada for years. He scored 7 the first game and 4 the 3rd, allowed him to win the 2nd.

. . . Evening at the Rectory teaching the girls “fast dances”.

Saturday, 22nd February, 1862

. . . The Misses Thomas and Mrs. Ross were at the Racket Court. It is proposed to have a Ladies’ Day at the Court, so that the Gentlemen may not be caught “Dishabile” to use a mild term. But many think it is not a proper place for the soft sex. I agree with the latter party.

Friday, 28th February, 1862

. . . Played 2 rubbers with Captain Slade – won one and lost one – the first time in 5 years that I have been beaten in Canada. Am to play match over again tomorrow.

Saturday, 15th March, 1862

. . . Raining steadily – went to Racket court to try and cure cold and headache. Played Lord A.P. Cecil 2 rubbers giving him 5 aces in 15 and won both. Played Captain Slade 3 rubbers even and won 2 out of 3 – Held a meeting at 3 o’clock and reduced the price of balls from 7 1/2 cents to 6 cents which leaves Mrs. Price a profit of 3 cents for every ball used. The committee talks of having baths attached.

Tuesday, 29th April, 1862

. . . The English professional racket player “Foulkes” arrived from London C.W. [Canada



“Serve up”

The Racket Club appeared in the City of Hamilton assessment rolls from 1861 to 1883.

Date	Tenant	Owner/occupation	lot number	type of building
1861	Raccat Cort	F.W. Gates, President Samuel Mills, gent.	71 & 72	
1862	Ricket Cort	F.W. Gates, Pres.	71 & 72	Brick, value \$2,500
1863	Reccet Cort Curling rink	F.W. Gates, Presedent Thomas Rayland, Presedent Samuel Mills, gent.	72 71 70	Brick Wood none
1864	Racket Court skating rink	Samuel Mills Samuel Mills Samuel Mills, gent.	72 71 70	wood & brick wood none
	Frederick Foulkes Racketer, 40, at Racket Court			
1865	Mrs. Shillinglaw Racket Cort Curling rink George Reid, porter Charles F. Mueller	Samuel Mills, gent. Samuel Mills Samuel Mills	72 71 70	wood & brick wood brick
1866	William Monk, Messenger, 34 Curling rink Marry Kennedy, lady Unoccupied	Samuel Mills, gent. Samuel Mills Samuel Mills Samuel Mills	72 71 70 70	Racket Cort wood brick brick
1867	William Monk, keeper, 38 Henry Wetenhall, Secty. Racket Court		72	
1868	Racket Court, Henry Wetenhall, Secty. William Monk, keeper, 37	Samuel Mills, gent.	72	brick
1869	RACKET Court H. Wetenhall, Secty. William Monk, keeper, 38 Skating rink, F.C. Ritchie, Secty.	Samuel Mills, gent.		brick
1870	William Monk, caretaker, 38 Skating rink, F.E. Ritchie, Secty.		72 71	wood brick wood

(Top) A Hamilton assessment roll with mention of the local rackets court. Spelling was a problem.

(Bottom left) Membership List of 1860

(Bottom right) An 1860's map of Hamilton. The court stood on lots 71 and 72.

no mention of Rackey Club again until 1881

1881 2 Jackson St. Charles M. Counsell
Racket Court.
Samuel Brant, laborer, 57

1882 Racket Court Charles M. Counsell
James Flynn, laborer, 57

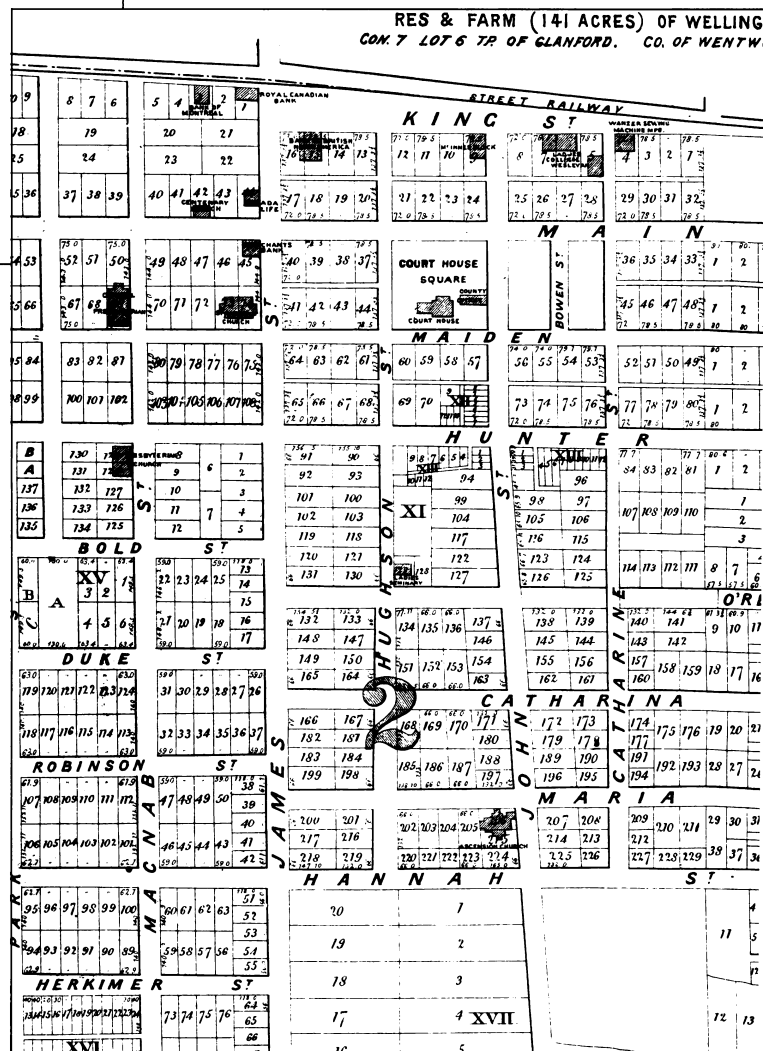
1883 Racket Court Charles M. Counsell
James Flynn, caretaker, 52

not mentioned again

PARTIAL LIST OF MEMBERS HAMILTON RACKET CLUB

1860 - 1863

F.W. Gates
Charles Sadlier
John O. McRae
R.N. Law
C.J. Forster
Charles L. Circkmore
Colonel Booker
C.M. Counsell
W.H. Glassco
John T. Glassco
Forbes Geddes
T.H. MacPherson
John Billings
R.A. Lucas
G.F. Glassco
R.L. Gunn
J.M. Young
Captain Slade,
P.C.O. Rifle Brigade
Captain Cunninghame,
P.C.O. Rifle Brigade
Lord A.P. Cecil,
P.C.O. Rifle Brigade



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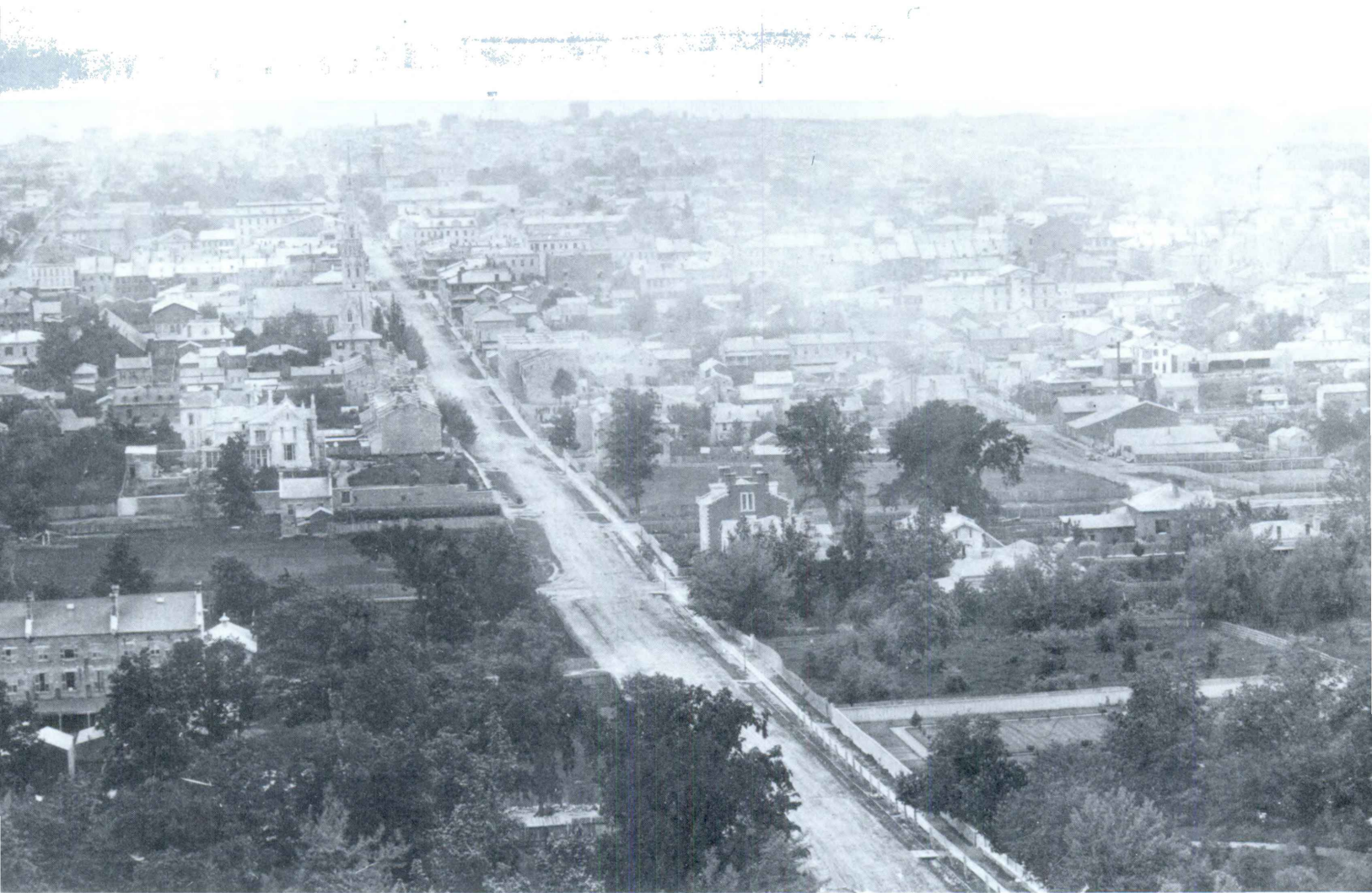
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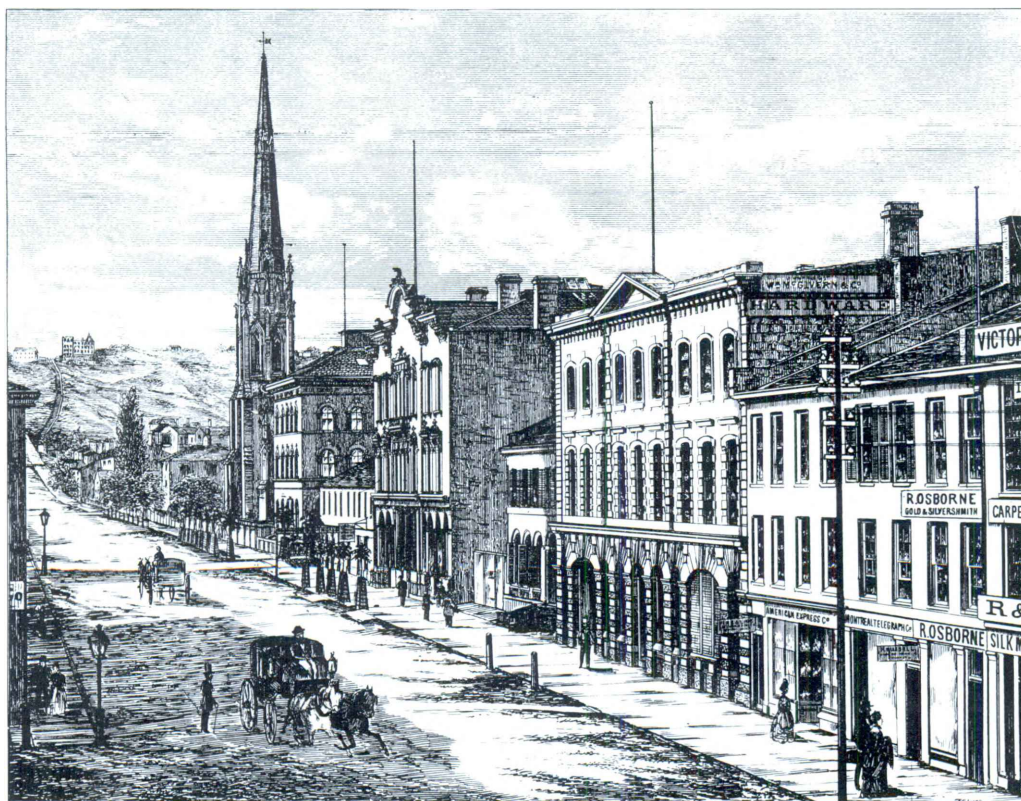
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(Top) View of Hamilton from the escarpment during the 1860's. The rackets court can be identified immediately to the left of the large church on James Street.



(Bottom) The Hamilton court is just around the corner from the church

The Hamilton Racket Club survived for some twenty years until 1883; however, as in other garrison towns, the sport's popularity and the high-calibre competition quickly dwindled after the Imperial troops left Canada.

The last recorded mention of this court in Hamilton appeared in an article in the *Hamilton Evening Times* in 1903:

Among the soldiers stationed here in the early 1860's, racquets was the popular sport. A large racquet court stood on Jackson Street (formerly Maiden Lane) west of James [Street], where St. Paul's Church school-room now is. It was used as a broom factory for some years after racquets ceased to be played.



Major Penn
A rackets enthusiast from Montreal



The court and its skylight
can be seen to the left
of the spired church



QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC

Occupying a strategic location on the St. Lawrence River, the military installation at Quebec City was of major importance to Britain in defending its North American holdings. Troop strength and defense expenditures for Quebec City were the highest in the colony from the time of the conquest in 1759 to the early 1800's. It was not until 1814 that Montreal, then the centre of political and commercial activity in British North America, was chosen as the headquarters of the British army.

Probably the most distinguished of the regiments sent to defend Quebec City was the Royal Regiment of Artillery, whose English headquarters at Woolwich housed the first covered rackets court in England.

Quebec City, being heavily fortified, required massive artillery support manned by a large number of gunners. It was these rackets-playing officers from Woolwich who brought their favourite sporting pastime with them to Canada. The history of rackets in Quebec City is rich and plentiful. From the early 1830's through to the 1900's, the sport was actively enjoyed by first the military and later, by the townspeople.

*The Royal Regiment of Artillery
garrisoned at Quebec City*

It was in 1832 that the building of a ball court first came to the attention of the military command in Quebec City. During this year, a serious outbreak of cholera had erupted in the city, confining the officers and troops to their barracks. The commanding officers, hard pressed to find athletic distractions for their men, finally proposed that a skittles ground (bowling) and a rudimentary fives court be erected in the ditch outside the bastion walls. A ball court having only a front wall was subsequently built. It was not until two years later, in 1834, that enough interest was generated to convert the court to accommodate both rackets and fives.

The political manoeuvring which was required by the officers to force the modification of this court is fascinating. Letters and papers written by a variety of officers and engineers associated with the Royal Engineers and the Royal Artillery provide an amusing historical account of the subject.

In May of 1834, the following circular was posted for the officers stationed in Quebec City:

It is proposed to put the Ball Court in the ditch in repair for the ensuing summer. If it being found that the present flooring of sand and lime is not well adapted for the purpose for which it was laid down, it is proposed to board it with planking, three inches thick. Officers who wish to subscribe to the above are requested to direct their monies; If it afterwards thought desirable, measures may be taken to fit up the court for the double purposes of Fives and Rackets by the erection of a side wall.

Records indicate that the addition of side walls, which were needed to convert the existing fives court into a rackets court, was not discussed for another two years.

By December of 1836, terse letters were being exchanged between several regimental officers and Lieutenant Colonel Rowan, the Quebec City commanding officer. There must not have been many sleigh rides or cosy dances with the local muffins that winter, the time being better spent planning for the battle to have a rackets courts built for the men.

The first of these letters to Lieutenant Colonel Rowan was written by Colonel George Augustus Wetherall, Commanding

Royal Regiment of Foot. Colonel Wetherall felt it was most important that the existing structure in the ditch, originally built in 1832, be refitted. He further maintained that, since it would be constructed of wood, his men could simply dismantle and move it in the event of hostilities, arguing that this total procedure would take only two hours.

The Commanding Royal Engineer, Colonel Gustavus Nicolls, did not necessarily agree with Wetherall's assessment of the situation and was soon caught up in the fray. He sent off his own dispatch to Rowan.

Colonel Nicolls had either never played the game of rackets, or was attempting to better his rank by having the court relocated. He was adamant that Wetherall's plan of adding twenty-five foot walls would prove to be an ideal means for

A letter from the "Battle of the Rackets Court", a bureaucratic engagement at Quebec City

Referred to the Commanding Royal Engineer,
for any observations he may have to
make - in the by Secy's Office 7 Dec 1836
By Command

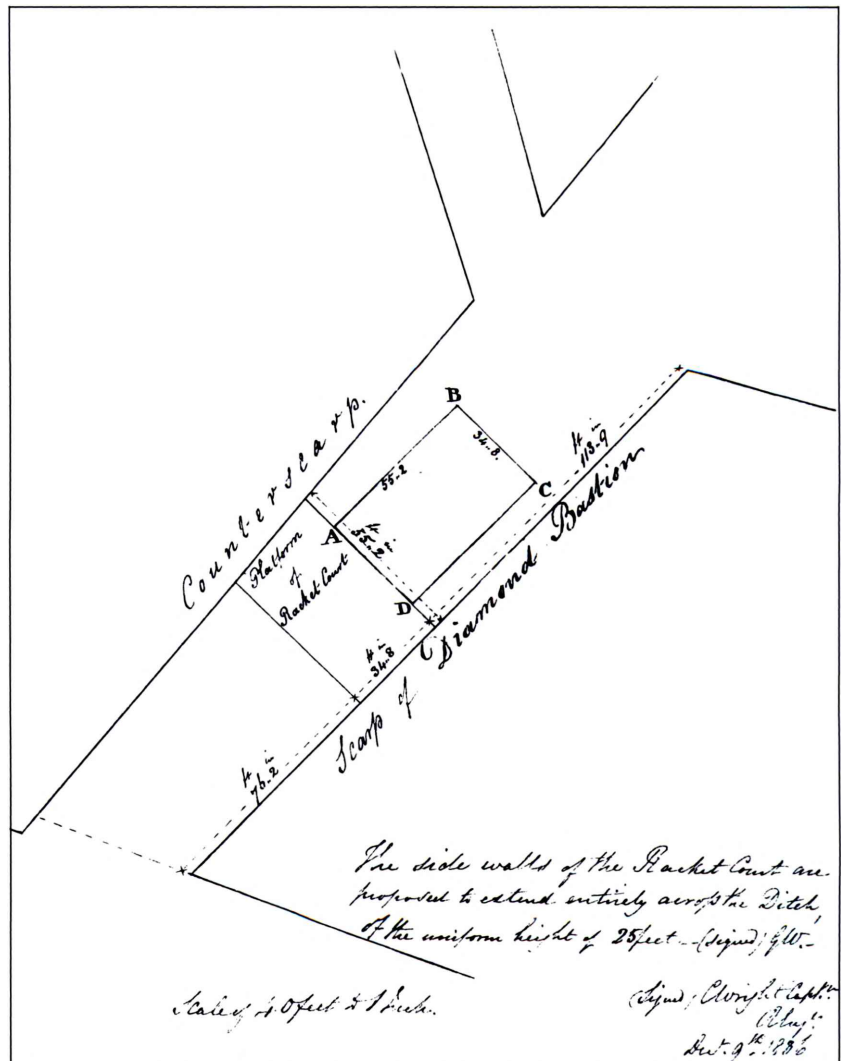
The C.R.E. transmits
for the information of the Secy
the enclosed Camp, a copy of a sketch by
Capt Knight showing the site of
the Platform now laying by the Officers
of the 10th Regiment. Sketch Col. Nicolls thinks objectionable,
as crossing the entire width of the ditch, whereas a
passage of 12 ft. should be left. He can not recommend
in a military point of view, that side walls of 25 feet
high for a Racket Court should be built adjoining
the Camp wall: is of opinion, that the 10th at
Regiment might be allowed to put up a
Racket Court, as shown by the plan line A B C D -
G Nicolls Col
C.R.E. Canada
Quebec 7 December 1836



Colonel George Augustus Wetherall
An officer who championed the
building of rackets courts in Quebec

attacking troops to cross the ditch and gain access to the citadel. He also argued that a new cassionière, or gun emplacement, which was to be built in the ditch, would be obstructed by the rackets court. As a token counter-offer, Nicolls suggested that the court be turned sideways in the ditch.

Wetherall, likely sensing that Nicolls wanted the court removed completely, spent the week-end preparing a second letter to Lieutenant Colonel Rowan. His men were now determined to erect walls for the rackets court. Wetherall's latest volley to Rowan, displaying a masterful contempt for Colonel Nicholls, reminded Rowan that Nicholls had originally sanctioned the building of the first court in 1832. He further pointed out that the officers had successfully petitioned for subscriptions and had raised over £30 to pay for materials to complete the court.



A proposal for the relocation
of the ditch court

It appears that this famous ditch court, despite inordinate lobbying to the commander in Quebec City, was dismantled by early 1838. Military logic had finally won out.

The Royal Artillery, however, was not satisfied with this turn of events. A personal appeal was sent in February of 1838 to Lieutenant General Sir John Colborne from Stephen Kirby, the recently appointed Lieutenant Colonel Commanding Royal Artillery. Kirby requested that the former court be replaced by a new one within the fortified walls of the city. It would appear that Sir John Colborne, a distinguished field general in the Battles of Waterloo and Peninsula and one of the first Knights Commander of Bath, was being asked to drop all other colonial matters in order to decide the fate of rackets in the Canadas. In fact, Colborne, who was headquartered in Montreal in the 1830's, was, at that very moment, trying to put down a rebellion of the *Patriotes*.

Kirby, with a praiseworthy political logic, appealed on the premise that, since the court had been demolished by sanction of the military, it should now be rebuilt with government assistance. He claimed that, as the officers had already raised over £40 to cover the cost of a new floor, the government needed to contribute only £20 or £30 more to complete the construction of the new court.

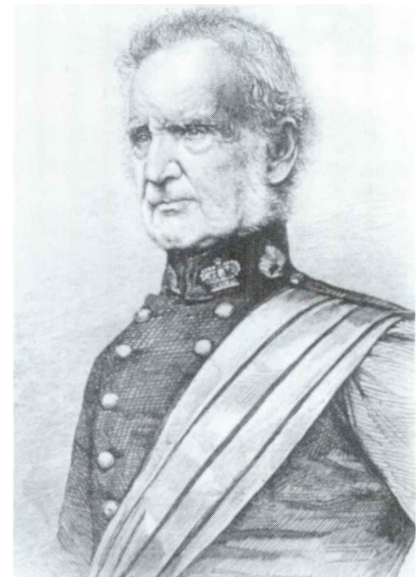
The reply which Kirby received from Colborne's aide-de-camp may have contributed to the temporary demise of rackets in Quebec City:

Montreal, 1st March, 1838

Lt. Col. Kirby
Commanding Royal Artillery
Quebec

Sir

I am directed by the Lieut. Genl. Commanding to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th [February] and in reply, to express to you his regret, that however anxious he is to promote any amusement beneficial to the Officers and men, he cannot sanction the Racket Court being re-erected



*Sir John Colborne
He fought Napoleon at Waterloo
and the rackets court at Quebec*

and fitted up at the Public Expense, which expenditure could not be sanctioned and might prevent the appropriation of any part of the works for such purposes for the future.

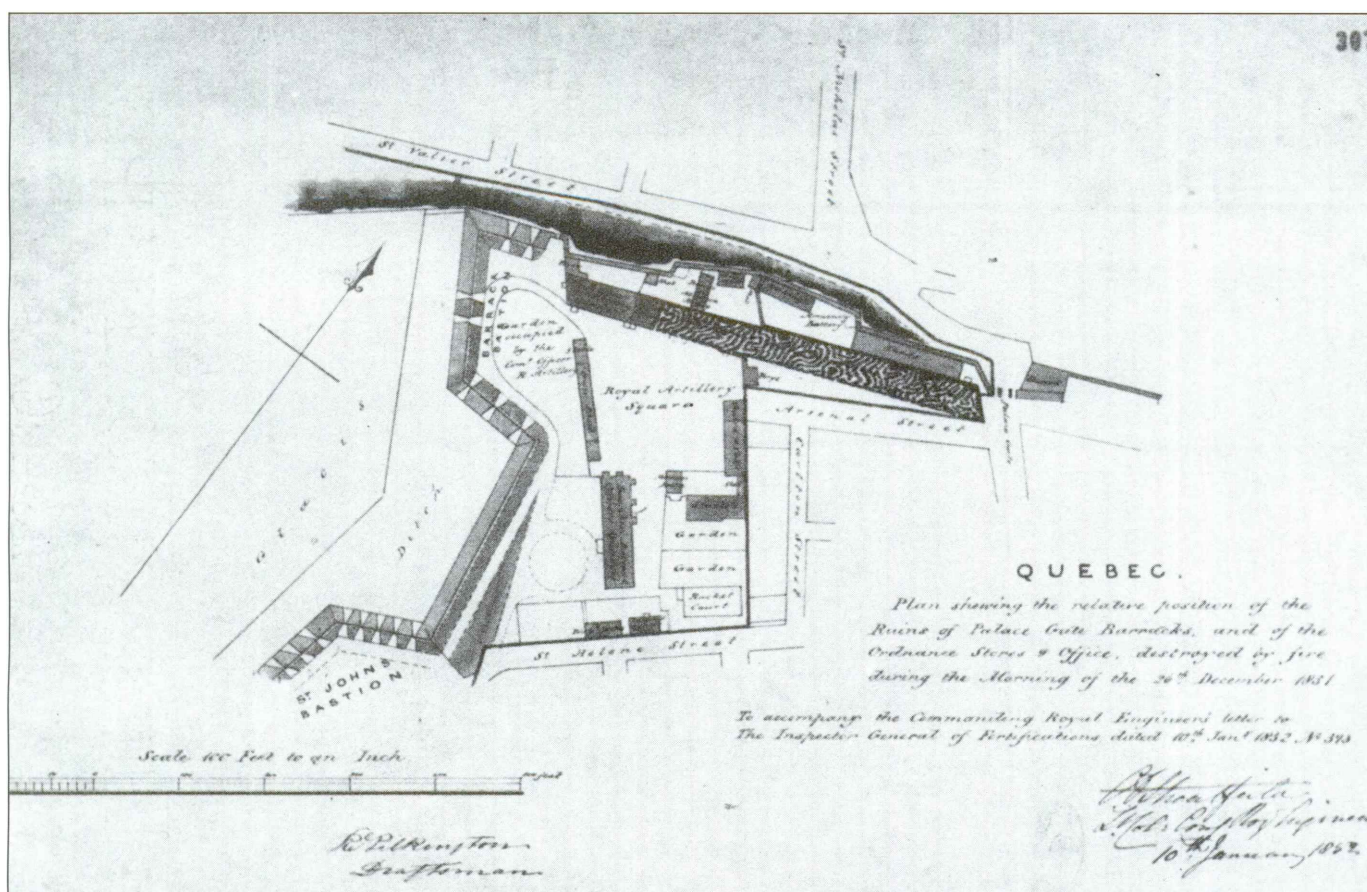
Signed Goldie

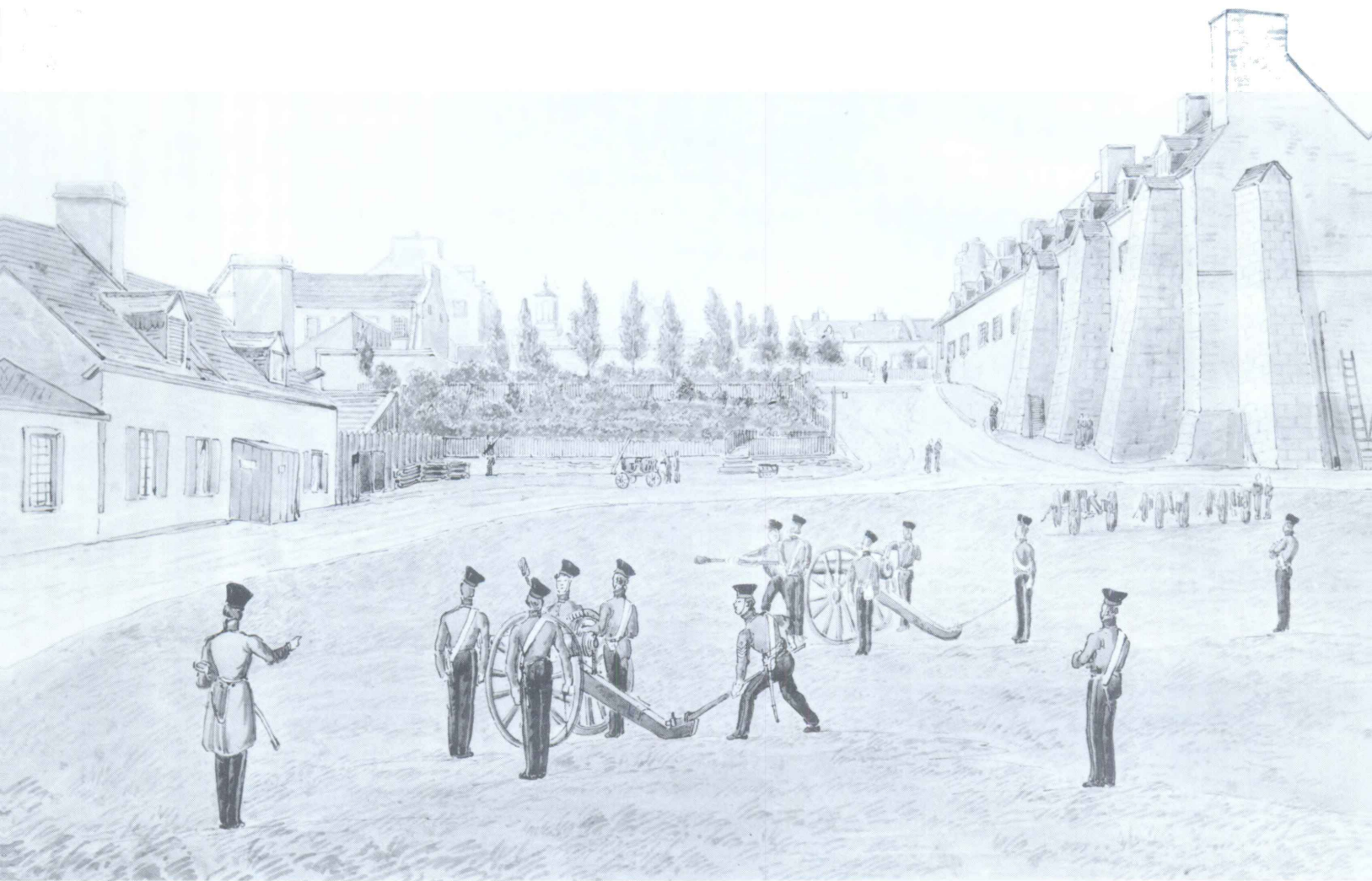
Although Kirby's original appeal did not meet with success, an 1852 site plan of Artillery Square clearly indicates a rackets court located at the corner of St. Helen's Street and Carleton Street. Perhaps Colborne had weakened and authorized Kirby to find a new location.

No other records, however, could be found concerning this court with the exception of a reference made in a military report of 1864 which discussed the various barracks in Canada. It was stated that the court situated behind the Dauphin Barracks was in ruins. Clearly, rackets had not been played in this location for some time.

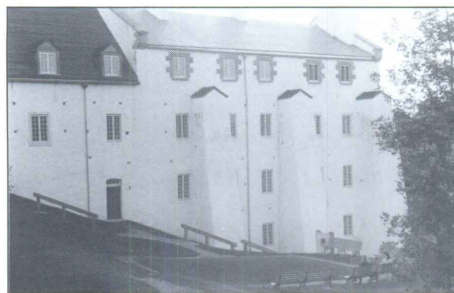
By 1851, a court known as the Quebec Racket Court was built on Côté du Palais behind what were then the Turkish Baths.

The site plan of Royal Artillery Square in Quebec City. The rackets court was built less than fifty feet from the officers' quarters.





*Royal Artillery Square
The court was built to the left,
behind the row of trees*



*(Top) 1990 view of the officers' quarters
looking toward the site of the former court*

*(Centre) The Dauphin Barracks have
been completely restored*



*(Bottom) View of the officers' quarters
and the rear of the Dauphin Barracks*

It was covered in 1856, and as such, became the first fully enclosed court in Quebec City. It was destroyed by fire in 1861.

Details of the players who used this court appear in George Gillespie's article "Rackets in Canada":

Sir Edmund Head, Governor-General, used to play in this and showed good form. The best player was Mr. Robert Scott, but there were many other good performers, among whom were Messrs. Frank Brown, Benny Prior, Charles Mackenzie, Tremain, Turnbull, Pemberton and Montizambert. The marker was Mahon, who later went to the Montreal court.



*Sir Edmund Head
Governor-General and a rackets
player at the Quebec City court*

Perhaps the most significant development relating to the building of this court was that, for the first time, access to the sport in Quebec City was not limited solely to the military. Local civilians who enjoyed the sport were invited to play, and the names of those who took advantage of the opportunity would suggest that its main supporters, both financially and athletically, were being drawn, more and more, from the social elite of Quebec City.

It is not certain who was responsible for the building of the next court in Quebec City – whether it was military or civilian subscribers. Perhaps it was a combination of the two as the garrison was still very active in Quebec City. It was, however, confirmed in the diary of Forbes Geddes of Hamilton that the court was located just outside the St. Louis Gates. His diary entry of June 11, 1862 states that "the new Quebec Court building on the slope of the 'Glacis' will be completed about the 1st of September".

Geddes visited Quebec City in September 1862 and played in the new court. His diary entry of September 18 reads:

. . . Lovely bright day – Spent the day playing rackets. Gave Pryor 2 hands and beat him. Played Motz and Hester together and beat them. Have promised to wait over tomorrow – they have written for Captain Curtis of the 60th Rifles (who is Rifle practising at the Island of Orleans) to come up for play. He and Pryor against Motz and myself.

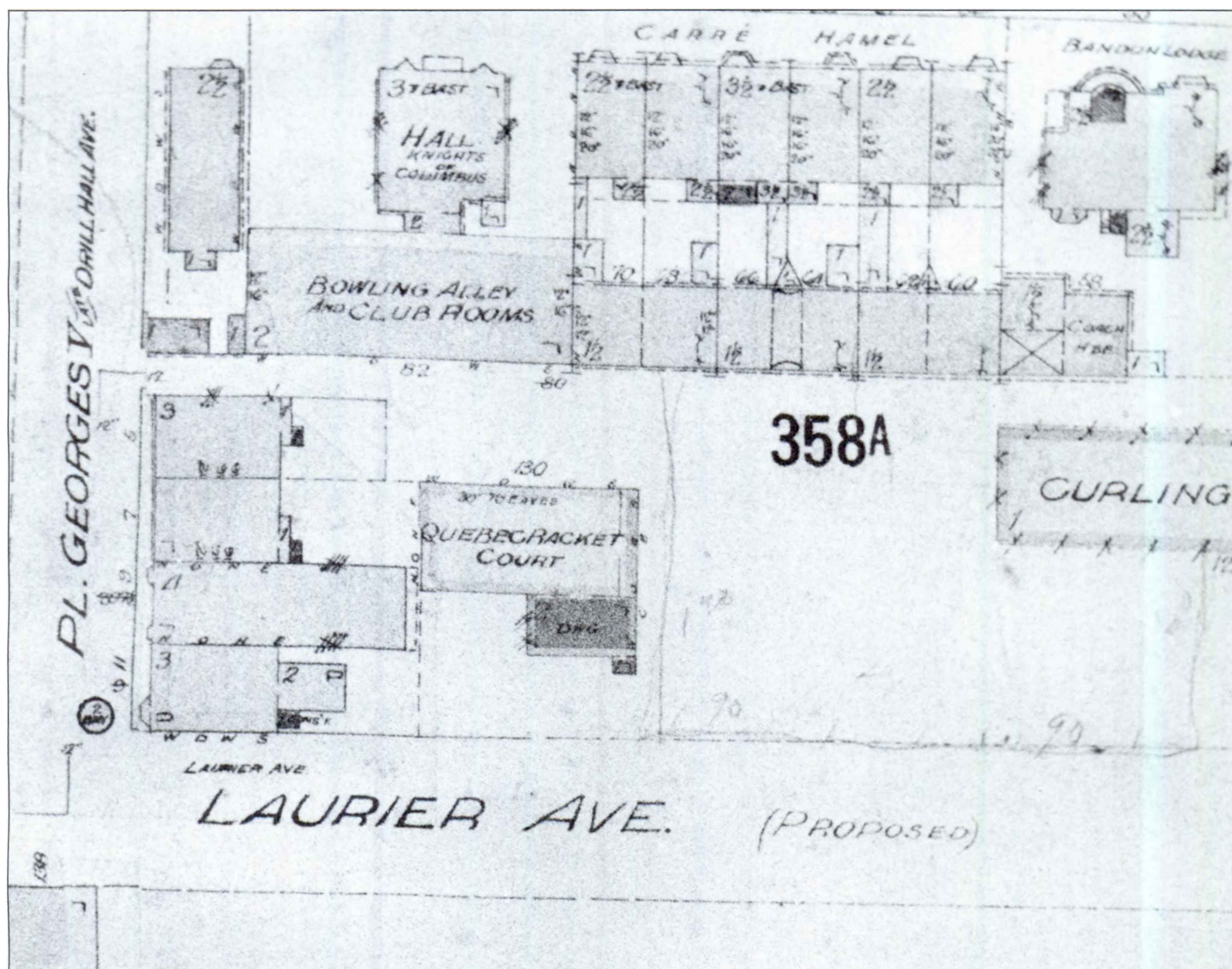
It would appear that this court was in use from 1862 until 1878 when it was abandoned in favour of new quarters located several hundred yards to the west off Grande Allée.



This last court to be built in Quebec City was done largely through the efforts of Mr. Stanley Smith. Smith was an Englishman from Cheltenham who had emigrated to Quebec City. He was a rich merchant and one of a small group of rackets enthusiasts dedicated to preserving the game despite the withdrawal of the Imperial forces in the early 1870's.

*Future site of the rackets court
built outside the St. Louis Gates,
Quebec City*

In 1876, Mr. John James Beer purchased three property lots on the south side of Grande Allée at a government auction. In 1878, he sold the parcel of land to Smith for the price of \$898.08. Interesting evidence appearing in the deed indicates that a rackets court had already been erected on this property at the date of purchase. Had Smith erected the building before concluding the land deal with Beer?



1874 Quebec City map showing the exact location of the rackets court

It was not until four years later, in 1882, that Smith appeared before notary E.G. Meredith with the directors of the Quebec City Racket Club: Arthur Ahern, Esq., Secretary of the club; Arthur Guerneaux Hunt; and George Hamilton Thomson. Smith sold both the land and the court to the club for \$2,400.00, with payment terms extending over a ten-year period at 2% interest.

The Act of Incorporation of the Quebec City Racket Club followed in 1884, with Stanley Smith named as president. The list of proprietors, as drawn up in 1884, included twenty-one Quebec City citizens, three of whom were already dead. The club prospered for the next several years and was listed in Cherrier's Quebec City Directory from 1888 through to the early 1900's.

ACT OF INCORPORATION
AND
BY-LAWS
OF THE
QUEBEC RACKET CLUB.

Quebec :
PRINTED BY DAWSON & CO.
1884

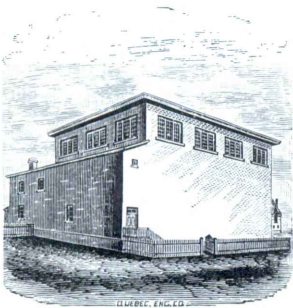
DIRECTORS 1884

H. STANLEY SMITH, - - President.
ARTHUR AHERN, - - Secretary-Treasurer.
ARTHUR F. HUNT. | G. H. THOMSON.
JNO. HAMILTON, JUNR.

Clubs

43

Clubs

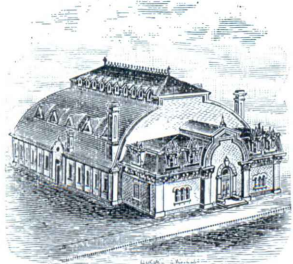


Quebec Racket

OFF GRANDE ALLÉE—Officers—A H Hunt, president ; C W Lindsay, secretary treasurer ; H Boakes, caretaker.

Quebec Rowing

Officers—Honble T McGreevy, honorary president ; F Carbray, honorary vice president ; W Foran, president ; J B Lambkin, vice president ; J O Farrell, treasurer ; P J Kerwin, secretary ; C E Hollwell, commodore.



Quebec Skating

OFF GRANDE ALLÉE—Officers—A H White, president ; R Campbell, secretary treasurer ; E N Chinic, R H Smith, F Holloway, U Tessier, J F Belleau, A F Hunt and G R White.

Quebec Skating Association

Officers—R Campbell, president ; E G Scott, vice president ; R C Welch, secretary ; A W Colley, treasurer.

Quebec Turf

Officers—R R Dobell, president ; lieutenant colonel C E Montizambert, vice president ; G G Stuart, secretary ; lieutenant colonel J F Turnbull, treasurer.



Quebec Yacht

ARTHUR 2—His Excellency the Governor General of Canada, patron ; His honor the honorable A Réal Angers, lieutenant governor of the Province of Quebec, vice patron.—Officers—J Ritchie, commodore ; J D Gilmour, vice commodore ; J S Thom, captain ; J Piddington, secretary ; G C Scott, treasurer.—Managing committee—A H Peters, H H Sharples.—Sailing committee—E C Fry, J Shaw, F Pennée, E Fitch and D Arcand.—Club room committee—L H Dunn, C F Angers, C Phillips. Auditors—W J Ray and L S Odell.

Shamrock Lacrosse

Officers—J McKenna, president ; J B Lambkin, vice president ; P J Kerwin, treasurer ; C Miller, secretary ; H P Kelly, captain.

St George Foot Ball

Officers—J J Codville, honorary president ; W B Scott, president ; A Laurie, secretary treasurer ; R J Davidson, captain.

St Louis

Officers—F Pennée, président honoraire ; A Picard, président ; J Turcot, vice président ; C Archer, secrétaire ; A Lafrance, trésorier.

St Louis—Tug-of-War

Officers—Dr E Casgrain, président ; I Parent, trésorier ; E Dorion, secrétaire ; A Picard, capitaine.

Thistle Lacrosse Club

Officers—J G Bruneau, president ; W H Henderson, vice president ; A E Scott, secretary treasurer.

LIST OF PROPRIETORS

IN THE

Capital Stock of the Quebec Racket Club.

H. Stanley Smith, - - - -	8 Shares.
Estate late Andrew C. Stuart, - - - -	4 do.
Arthur F. Hunt, - - - -	3 do.
John Hamilton, Junr., - - - -	2 do.
Geo. H. Thomson, - - - -	2 do.
J. Louis Renaud, - - - -	2 do.
Daniel McGie, Junr., - - - -	2 do.
Arthur Ahern, - - - -	1 do.
Jno. D. Gilmour, - - - -	1 do.
Alfred H. White, - - - -	1 do.
Richard J. LeSueur, - - - -	1 do.
Henry Thomson, - - - -	1 do.
Estate late W. E. Price, - - - -	1 do.
G. B. Symes Young, - - - -	1 do.
Edwd. G. Meredith, - - - -	1 do.
Estate late G. Okill Stuart, - - - -	1 do.
Evan Jno. Price, - - - -	1 do.
Samuel S. Bennett, - - - -	1 do.
Charles E. Montizambert, - - - -	1 do.
Wm. M. Macpherson, - - - -	1 do.
David Gilmour, - - - -	1 do.

37 Shares.

Advertise in **CHERRIER'S QUEBEC CITY DIRECTORY,**
because for obvious reasons, it is to your advantage to do so.

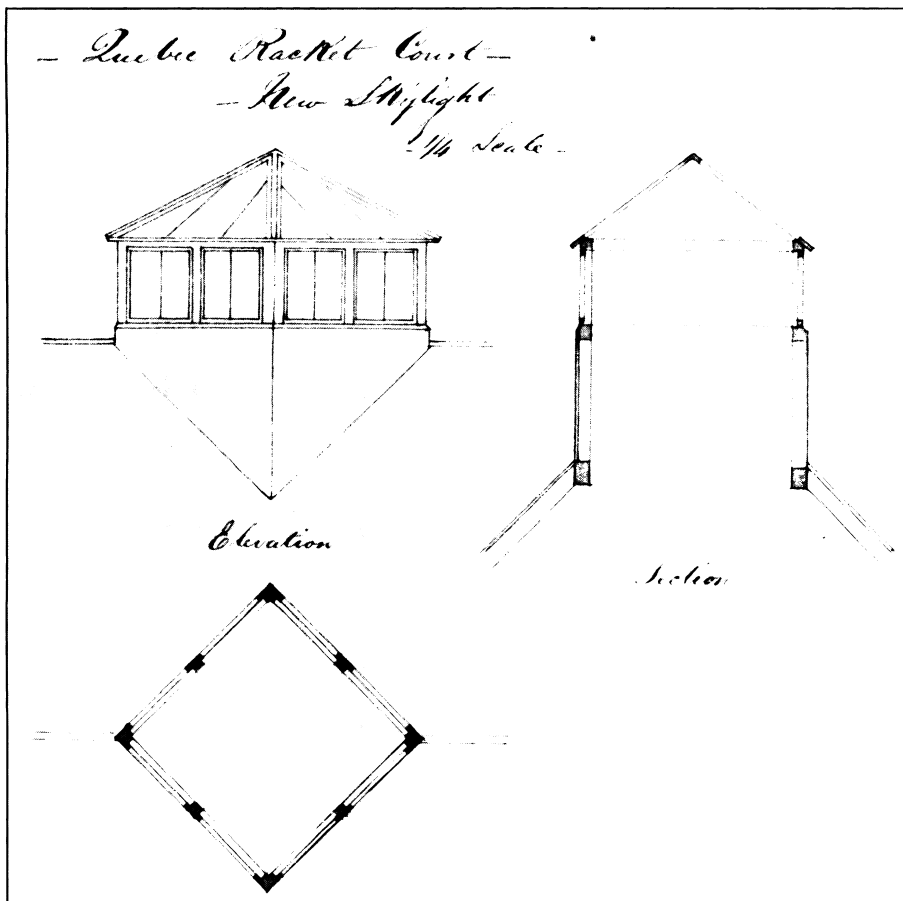
(Bottom left) The "Yellow Pages" of the day showing a fine illustration of the Quebec City Racket Court

Perhaps one of the most colourful figures associated with this court was its marker, Harry Boakes, also known as "Judy". He was reputed to be one of the best professional players in the world and is remembered for challenging the World Champion, Joseph Gray, to a match in 1881. This match was played in New York for a stake of \$1,000.00. George Gillespie describes the match:

An extraordinary feature of the contest was, that Boakes won the first three straight games from Gray, and throughout them he apparently outplayed his opponent. At the end of the third game the players retired, and on coming back it was noticed that Gray began to adopt Boakes' tactics of dropping short returns. It was this feature in Boakes' play which apparently had troubled Gray in the first three games. From this point on, Gray had the better of it and Boakes, though still putting up a tremendous game, lost four games and the match.

*Harry Boakes (left) and
Joseph Gray in New York*





Plans for the new skylight at the Quebec City court

The scores in the match were 12-15, 15-18, 7-15, 15-4, 15-5, 15-5, 18-15. A description of the match later appeared in the *New York Herald* and is noted in Lord Aberdare's *Book of Tennis & Rackets*:

Never had such a thrillingly exciting contest been played in racket circles in this city. The play was of the sharpest nature and of a rarer description than the lovers of the game here have been accustomed to seeing.

A major problem was later to occur in 1895, however, when Sheriff Gagnon of the City of Quebec presented a writ of seizure to the club. It appears that the club had defaulted on its mortgage payment to Stanley Smith. Smith then received a judgment from the courts to have the property seized. It was put up for public auction, and the same man who had built it came to its rescue. Stanley Smith repurchased the property for \$200.00.

It seems that the club, being desperately short of members, experienced major financial difficulties from the mid-1890's onward. Whether or not the game of rackets continued in its original form is uncertain, however, for in a final effort to save the club, a new game was introduced by the directors. It was known as "court tennis" and, accordingly, the name of the club was changed to the Quebec Court Tennis Club. Court tennis was not the game originally known as "jeu de paume", but rather a mixture of lawn tennis, rackets, and traditional court tennis. This game was also played in Montreal during the 1890's.

It is not known how long the Quebec Court Tennis Club existed. A search of the property registry from 1900 shows that George Thomson, an original club director, was then one of the owners of the land. In 1904, the property changed hands when notary E.G. Meredith, one of the original proprietors in 1884, purchased it. The property was later sold to Mr. Georges Elie Amyot, the founder of Daisy Fresh, Canada's largest brassière manufacturer, who, in 1918, converted it into an apartment building.

There are no records to suggest that either rackets or court

(Opposite) Rackets died in Quebec City, and the court was taken over by the Quebec Court Tennis Club

The Quebec Racket Court is the brick building behind the row houses (bottom left) on Grande Allée. Side windows, rather than a skylight, lit the interior. The large military drill hall in the centre of the photo still stands.



Quebec Court Tennis Club

I.

That this Club be called the QUEBEC COURT TENNIS CLUB.

II.

The Membership shall be:—

50 Lady.....Playing Members
35 Gentleman.....do
15 Lady.....Non-playing Members
15 Gentleman...do

1

III.

Subscriptions to be:—

Entrance.....\$2.00
Ladies' subscription..... 2.50
Gentlemen's subscription..... 3.00
Non-playing..... 1.00

The name of any member whose subscription is not paid by January 1st will be posted.

IV.

The Committee shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and 4 members. Any vacancy occurring during year to be filled by the Committee.

2

V.

New members must be proposed and seconded in writing to the Secretary.

VI.

The non-playing list may be completed from the waiting list, but members thus becoming non-players do not lose their places on the waiting list for players.

VII.

The Court will be open on Sundays till 1 p.m. Week days till 7 p.m.

After 7 p.m. until 11 p.m., a charge of 25

3

cents per hour, or fraction thereof, is made for light.

The Court may be reserved, on application to the Treasurer, by any member, for the evening at the cost of \$1.50. The premises must be vacated at 11 p.m.

VIII.

Any balls damaged or lost, or electric light globes broken, must be reported, and the Treasurer be paid for the same.

IX.

Any member may extend the privileges of the Club to a guest for a fortnight or may

4

have a month's ticket (\$1.00) for their own guests. (The name of each guest and date of introduction to be entered in visitors' book kept for that purpose).

X.

A complaint book shall be open in the Club room, in which members may enter complaints, which will be brought before the Committee.

XI.

The Court shall be reserved for lady members on Tuesday mornings and for gentlemen members on Thursday afternoons.

Tuesday shall be visitors' day.

5

RULES GOVERNING PLAY

I.

Racquets and shoes must not be used without permission of owner.

Members must play in tennis shoes.

II.

Short setts and long games shall be played.

III.

Setts shall be made up from names on board in rotation.

In no case shall singles be finished if any

6

other member be waiting to play, unless that member be willing.

IV.

A ball rebounding over net from back wall counts against striker.

V.

A ball hitting roof, going over rafters or above red line, or into gallery, is "out".

VI.

A ball hitting electric lights or ropes is "net".

7

VII.

Four balls only to be taken into Court at a time.

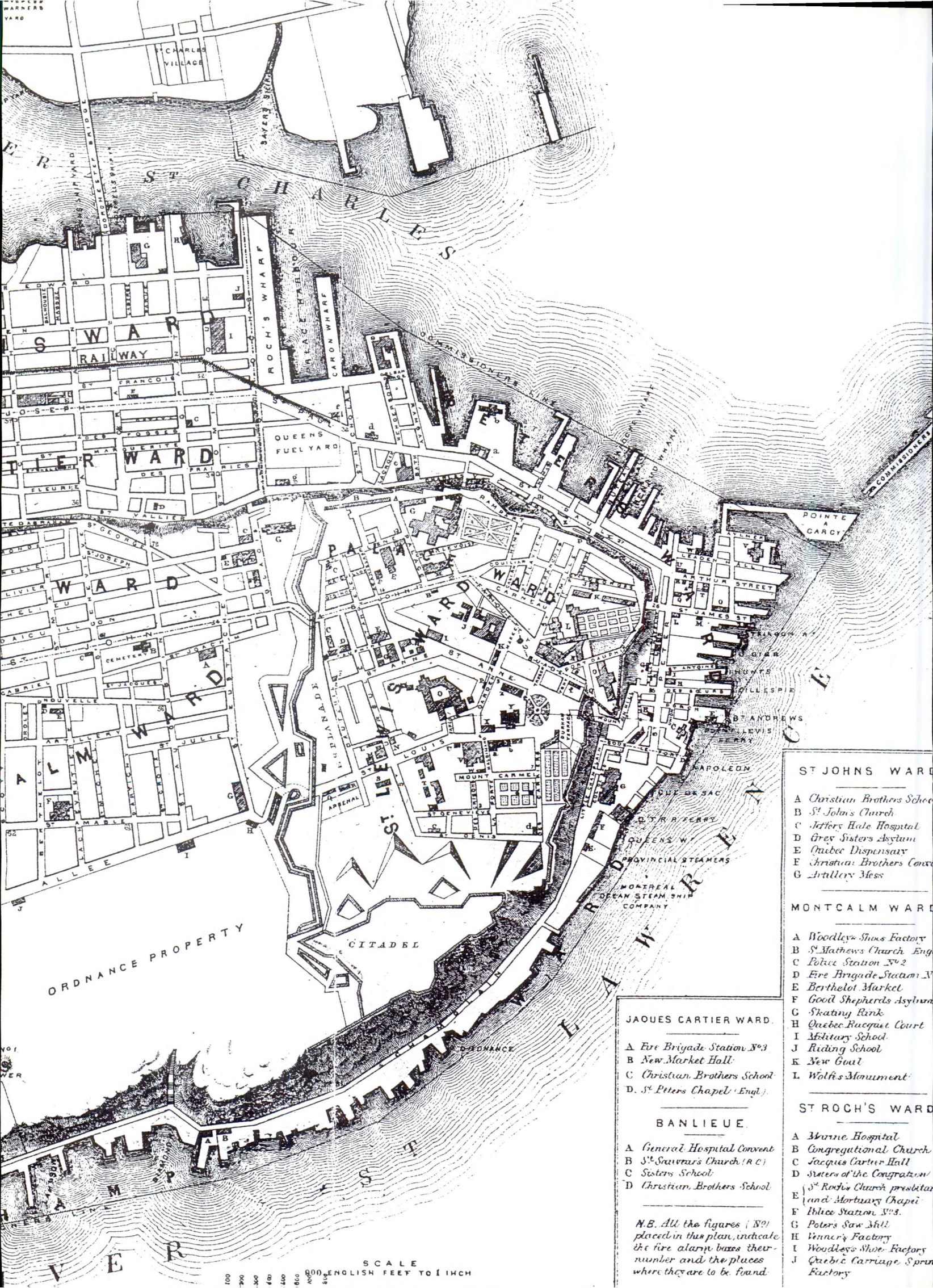
50 cents to be paid by the Treasurer to caretaker, when Court is reserved.

Balls (4 on Sunday and 4 on Tuesday) to be given by the Secretary.

At Committee meetings 4 to be the quorum.



8



ST JOHN'S WARD

- A Christian Brothers School
- B St. John's Church
- C Jeffery Hale Hospital
- D Grey Sisters Asylum
- E Quebec Dispensary
- F Christian Brothers Convent
- G Artillery Mess

MONTCALM WARD

- A Woodley's Shins Factory
- B St. Matthews Church (Engl.)
- C Police Station No. 2
- D Fire Brigade Station No. 1
- E Berthelot Market
- F Good Shepherds Asylum
- G Skating Rink
- H Quebec Racquet Court
- I Military School
- J Riding School
- K New Goul
- L Wolfe's Monument

ST ROCH'S WARD

- A Marine Hospital
- B Congregational Church
- C Jacques Cartier Hall
- D Sisters of the Congregation
- E St. Roch's Church presbiterian and Mortuary Chapel
- F Police Station No. 3
- G Pater's Saw Mill
- H Vinner's Factory
- I Woodless Shoe Factory
- J Quebec Carriage Spring Factory

JAOUES CARTIER WARD.

- A Fire Brigade Station No. 3
- B New Market Hall
- C Christian Brothers School
- D St. Peter's Chapel (Engl.)

BANLIEUE.

- A General Hospital Convent
- B St. Saviour's Church (R.C.)
- C Sisters School
- D Christian Brothers School

N.B. All the figures (89) placed in this plan, indicate the fire alarm boxes their number and the places where they are to be found.

SCALE
1000 ENGLISH FEET TO 1 INCH

tennis were played after 1918. The sport had not survived in Quebec City despite a colourful seventy-five year history. The last rite of the Quebec Racket Club, as recorded in the minute book of its Montreal counterpart, was to donate its cup to the Montreal Racket Club.

. . . Mr. H. Meredith Smith, having donated the old Quebec Racquet Club Championship Trophy to the Club, the Secretary was authorized to send him a resolution of thanks from the Directors.

- from the minutes of February 6, 1924

The property changed hands a number of times after 1918 until the land was finally bought by the Quebec provincial government in 1961. During the 1960's, a contemporary government complex was planned for the block directly across from the Parliament Buildings on Grande Allée, and this site is now the location of the Premier of Quebec's office. The "Bunker", as it is known, stands directly on the land formerly occupied by the rackets court.

(Opposite) Quebec City map showing the location of the court just outside the St. Louis Gates

The Government of Quebec's "Bunker" today sits on the former site of the rackets court



VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

During the early colonial period, Victoria was both the seat of government and the centre of commerce for the area which is today the province of British Columbia. The Royal Navy's Pacific Squadron protected this west coast colony, using the harbour just north of Victoria at Esquimalt as its anchorage.

With territorial disputes with the Americans erupting during the early 1860's, enemy warships prowled the local waters. It was therefore decided by the British naval command that a coastal artillery installation should be built to defend the town of Victoria and the large naval yard.

This complex was completed in phases which extended over a twenty-year period, and by 1887, Esquimalt claimed a significant position in the worldwide network of Imperial defense. As in the construction and garrisoning of other important defense installations in Canada, it was, once again, the Royal Engineers who supervised the project. The Royal Artillery had also sent troops to this station, so it was inevitable that many British traditions would be brought to the west coast, one of the most important of which was sports.

In a site plan of the Work Point Barracks at Esquimalt, several sporting facilities can be identified: cricket grounds and pavilion, lawn tennis court, skittle alley, recreation building, fives court, and officers' stables. Once again, the British had provided the best in recreational outlets for their troops, and since this installation was somewhat isolated from the town of Victoria, sporting contests were likely held from dawn till dusk.

The games of fives and rackets were often substituted for each other. Although the drawings of the court and the site plan for Work Point Barracks both indicate that the facility was designed for the playing of fives, it would appear from the dimensions that rackets could also have been played in this building.

The only detailed reference that could be located concerning this court was on a social note. On January 24, 1899, the warrant and non-commissioned officers of the Royal Marine Artillery and the Royal Engineers hosted a dance at the Work Point Barracks. The following description of the evening appeared in the Royal Marines' publication, the *Globe and Laurel* on March 7, 1899:

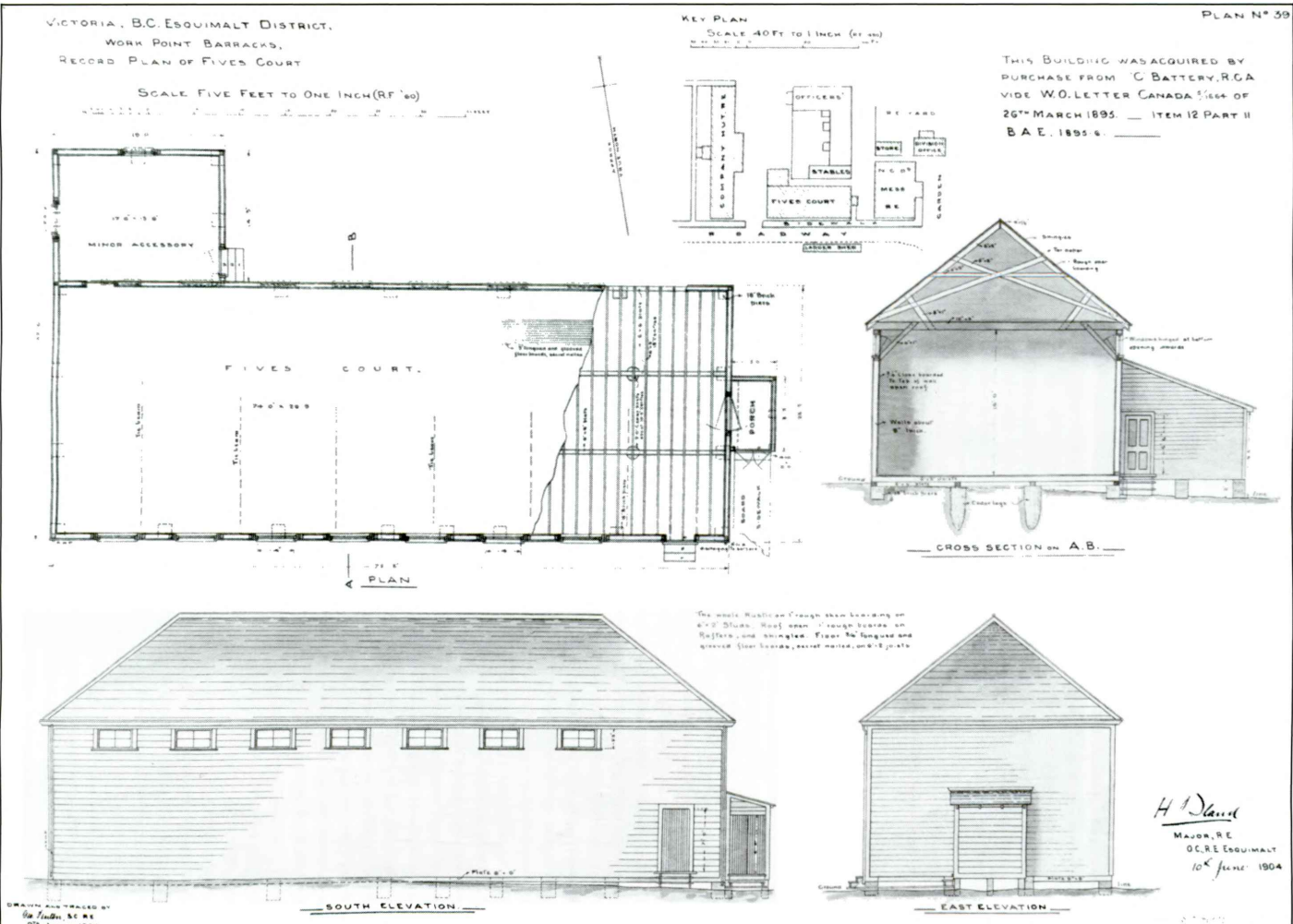


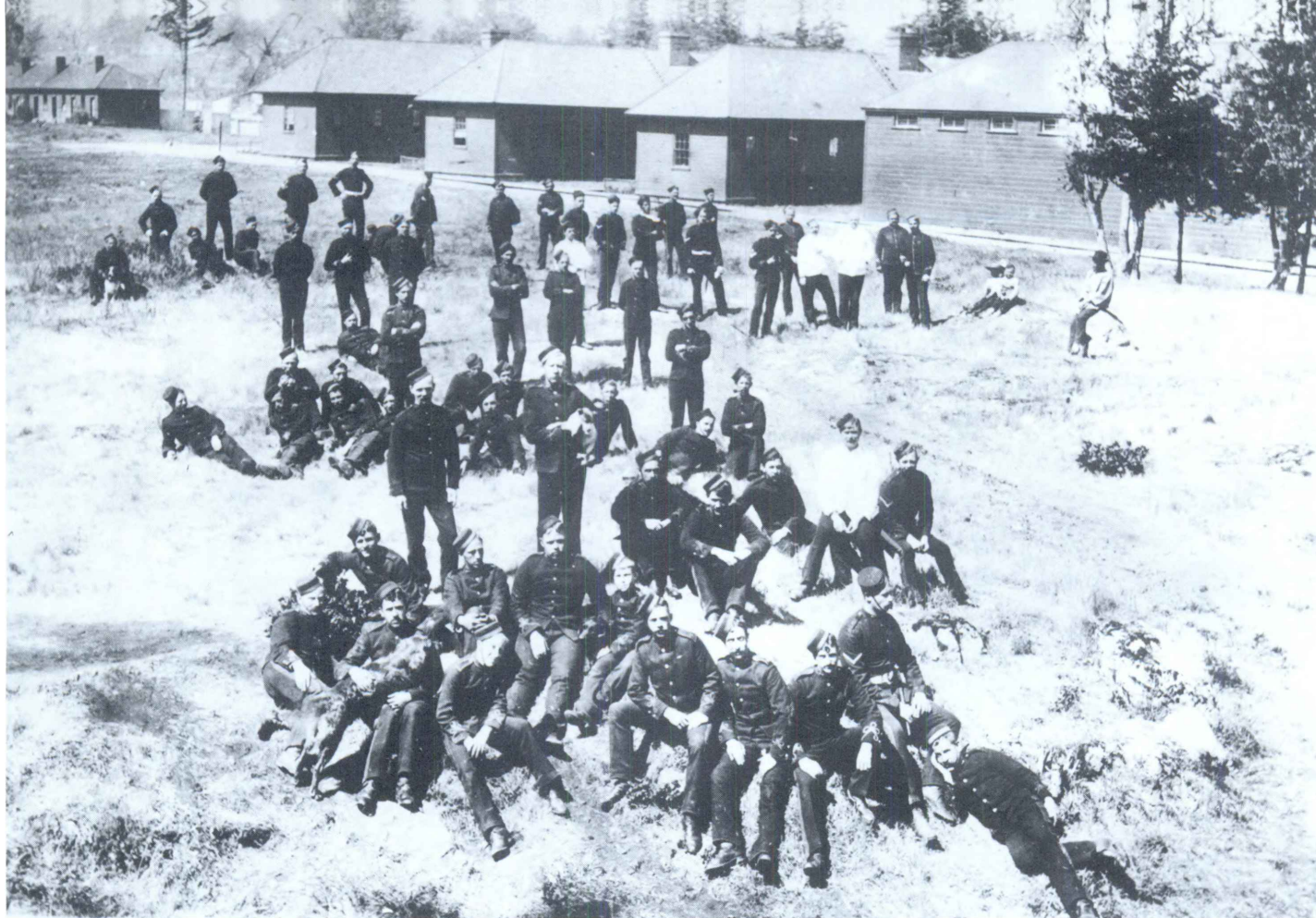
RACKETS IN CANADA

The Racquet Court was artistically decorated . . . a somewhat lengthy programme arranged (vocal, musical and dancing) . . . everything was done to please the eyes and delight of the company present, and render the evening an enjoyable one . . . The excellent state of the floor, which though small, is one of the best in Victoria, giving great satisfaction . . . A plentiful supply of refreshments was handed round . . . The guests departed about 2:15 a.m. after expressing themselves as being highly delighted at having had an opportunity of spending such an enjoyable evening . . .

The design of this court was generally similar to the military standards established for ball courts in 1842. There were, however, two major differences between the court that was constructed at Work Point and the 1842 standards. The first

Original drawings prepared for the construction of a ball court at Esquimalt





*The ball court is clearly seen
in the background*

modification lay in the height of the walls which were built to sixteen feet in the barracks; the 1842 design prescribed walls of thirty-three feet. The second difference concerned the floor surface which, in the Work Point court, was constructed with three-inch tongue-and-groove floor boards. The 1842 plan called for asphalt.

In 1899, Britain and Canada signed a ten-year agreement to maintain the defense of Esquimalt. Both the Royal Garrison Artillery and the Royal Engineers were stationed at this garrison. In 1905, however, the Pacific Squadron of the British navy was dissolved, and in 1906, the English troops were totally withdrawn. The defense of this base was then transferred to the government of Canada, and the Royal Canadian Navy subsequently took control of the dockyard in 1910. With the departure of the British from this base, the game of rackets ceased to be played and the court was torn down.

The sport of rackets enjoyed very limited success in the Canadas, and had it not been for the enthusiast endorsement of a handful of prominent Montreal businessmen in the late 1800's, the game would have met the same fate as the sport did in India. For while over seventy courts were built by the British military in India, the game disappeared altogether when the troops departed.



CHAPTER THREE

EARLY RACKETS IN MONTREAL

IN THE EARLY GARRISON TOWNS OF HALIFAX AND Quebec City, the ball courts were located at the disposition of the military, either inside the barracks or very close by. Unlike their counterparts, the officers stationed in Montreal originally built courts within the walled fortifications of the town in locations which were accessible to both the military and the local citizenry.

By the early 1800's, Montreal was important for two reasons: It was the headquarters of the English army in Canada and was the commercial capital of British North America. As such, Montreal "society" included both members of the prosperous and "well-heeled" merchant class as well as the elite of Britain's military colleges who directed their armies from this command post. The coexistence of these two groups was a positive force on the growth of sports in Canada and, in particular, on the development of the fastest game in the world – rackets.

Since no civic records were preserved from the early 1800's, the locations of the various courts can be verified only by maps and city directories published at the time. What has been well preserved, however, are the names of the prominent players who joined fellow citizens and military officers in playing the game. The ties between the local population and the young officers not only improved the calibre of the competition, but gave the sport a strong foothold in the city.

For the English regiments in Canada, the pace of life was more than agreeable. As in other garrison towns, the military in Montreal had a great deal of time to pursue leisure activities, and the diaries of several of the officers depict a notable passion for rackets. One such diary, that of a Lieutenant Freeling, notes in the entry of December 21, 1841 that he was "predisposed

*(Opposite) View of Montreal
and Mount Royal from
Notre Dame Cathedral*



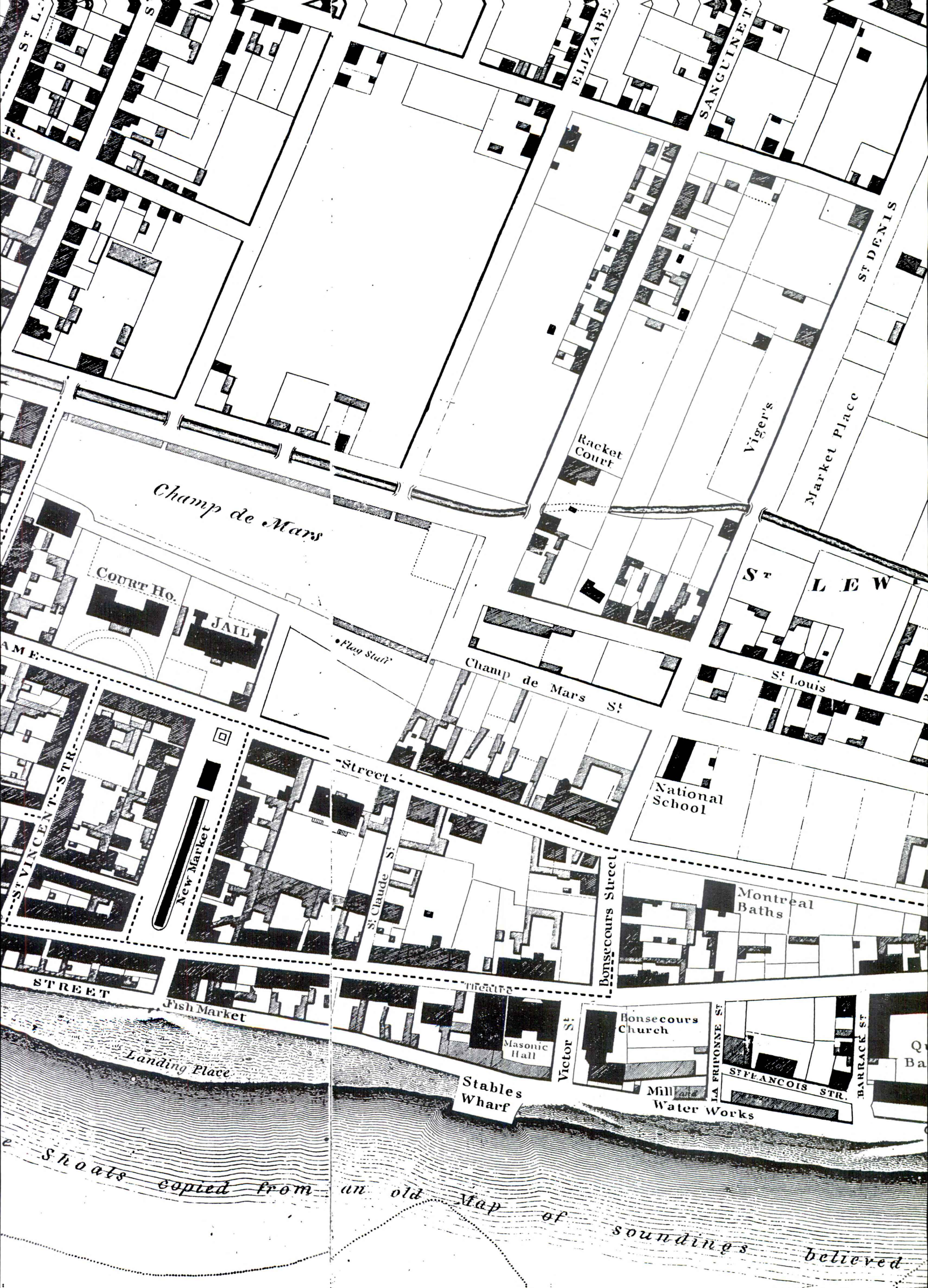
*View of Montreal from Mount Royal
in the early 1800's*

*(Opposite) A military map of 1825
showing the rackets court
on Sanguinet and Craig Streets
across from Champ de Mars.
The Quebec Barracks are seen
in the lower right corner of the map.*

to horseback excursions'' and that his ''behaviour suggested an addiction to racquets''.

Sir Charles Chichester, another officer who was posted to Montreal early in his career, did not find duty to be very strenuous, especially during the winter months. He had clearly established his athletic pursuits as a priority, reporting in his diary in 1844 that:

[Lieutenant Hewitson] was a very good racket player and would be happy to take the conceit out of me. The court was in good order and all ready. I was delighted at the chance of a good match; there was no fun playing with these spoons [hackers] here, they have no more chance with me than I have with Gillman of the 68th. So I abandoned all my important duties, left the high savings Bank Ledger to take care of itself, and came home to get ready for the fray.



Champ de Mars

COURT HO.

JAIL

Racket Court

Viger's

Market Place

ST L E W

St Louis

National School

Montreal Baths

Bonsecours Church

Masonic Hall

Fish Market

Landing Place

Stables Wharf

Mill Water Works

Shoats copied from an old map of soundings believed

THE RACKETS COURTS OF MONTREAL

George Gillespie, president of the Montreal Racket Club from 1901 to 1903, wrote an article entitled "Rackets in Canada" for *The Book of Sport* which was published in 1904. The material for his article was compiled from interviews with older members of the club and provides a wonderful account of the early history of the courts built in Montreal.

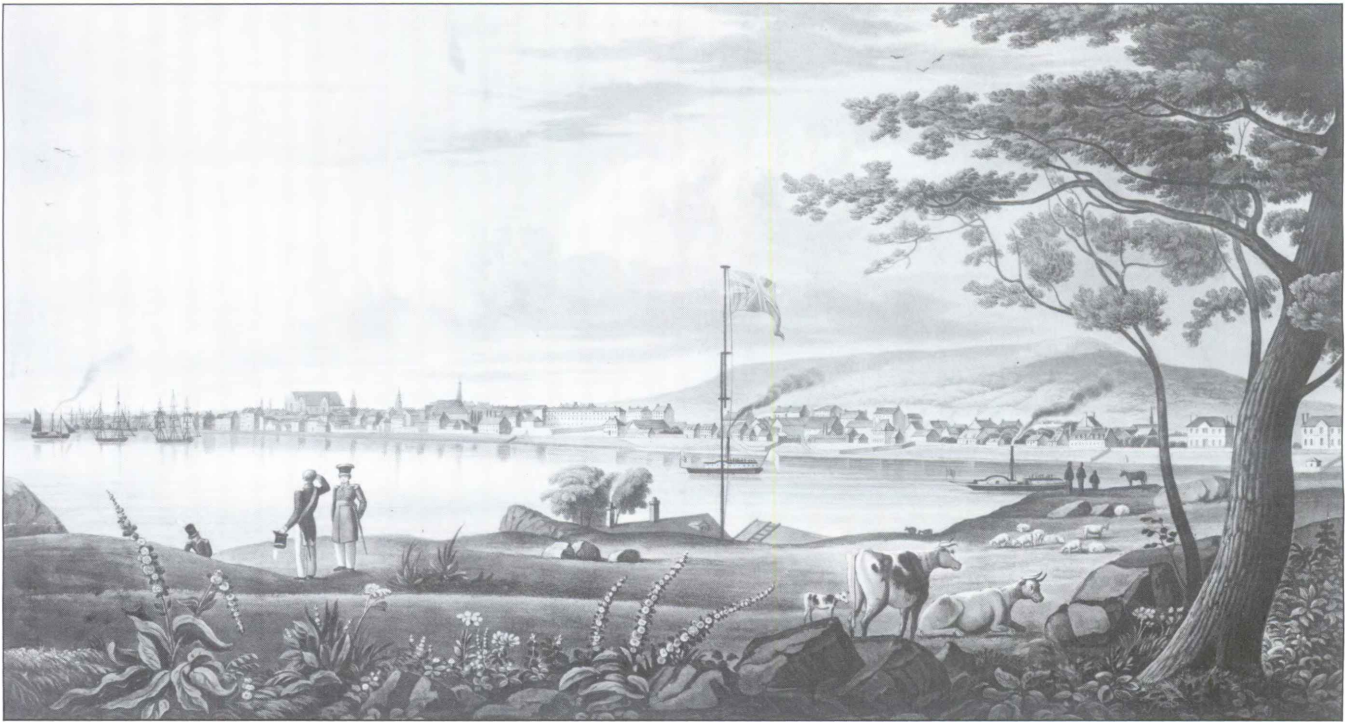
THE SANGUINET STREET COURT

1825 – 1836

A military map printed in 1825 shows a rackets court situated at the northeast corner of Sanguinet and Craig Streets. This location was ideally situated to both the Quebec Gate Barracks and the Queen's Barracks some few blocks away, and was directly across the street from the huge military parade ground at Champ de Mars. The fact that the court was built on a non-military site strongly suggests that the British officers and the civilian population both subscribed to the game. This court,

*Champ de Mars was Montreal's
military parade ground*





seemingly the only one built in Montreal during this period, was in use until 1836.

*View of Montreal from
St. Helen's Island*

There appears to have been no specific military correspondence between Canada and England regarding the construction of this early rackets court on Sanguinet Street. However, general documentation was prepared by the military in 1842 which included site locations, cost estimates, and maps for the construction of ball courts across Canada. These plans indicate that St. Helen's Island was the proposed site of a ball court. It is doubtful, however, whether this court was ever constructed.

THE ST. PETER STREET COURT

1836 – 1847

The court built at the corner of St. Peter and Craig Streets in 1836 is recorded to have been an open air, wooden structure measuring eighty feet by thirty-four feet. This would seem to have been enormous as courts normally measured only sixty feet in length.

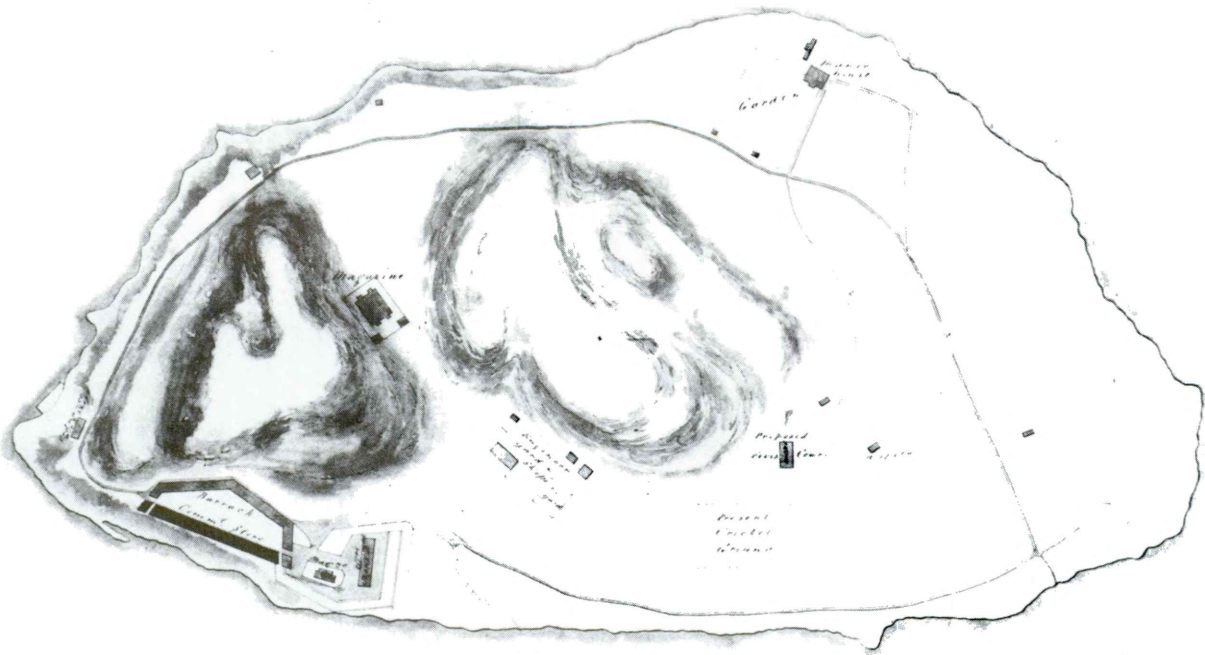
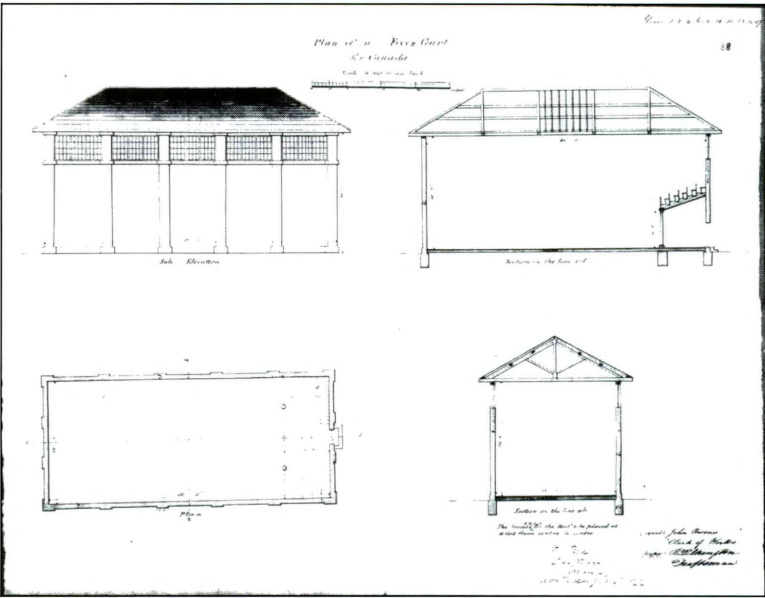
It had been through the efforts of Mr. E.H. Lamontagne, a local wine merchant, and Mr. Charles Castle, a prominent banker, that this court was constructed. Mr. Lamontagne, who

RACKETS IN CANADA

Sketches showing St. Helen's Island
and the plans for a rackets court
which was never built

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*Report and Estimate
of the
Probable Expense
of
Ball
Constructing Courts
at the principal Military Stations in
Canada.
Amounting to, £9778 15 4. ster?
Comm^d Royal Engineers Office
Montreal 15th Jan^y 1842*



(Copy)
J. B. Thorne (Capt)
15th Jan^y 1842
Capt R.E.

(Signed)
F. B. Thorne Major
Capt. R.E.

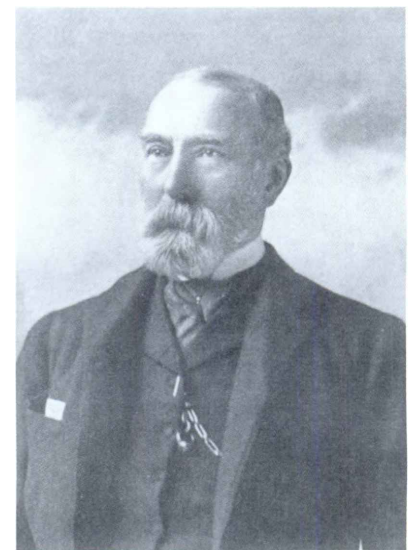
1842
Montreal 19th Jan^y 1842

left Montreal in 1850 for New York where he subsequently built that city's first rackets court, wrote an interesting letter describing the St. Peter Street court and several of the more noteworthy events which had occurred there. This letter is referred to in the 1932 essay "Memoirs of Rackets in Canada and the Montreal Racket Club" by Kenneth F. Gilmour, from which the following quotations are taken:

Mr. Lamontagne . . . described the court of those old days as being open to the sky, and the walls and floor painted black . . . the little boys would hang about outside to pick up the balls that now and again went over the walls to the ground below.

and,

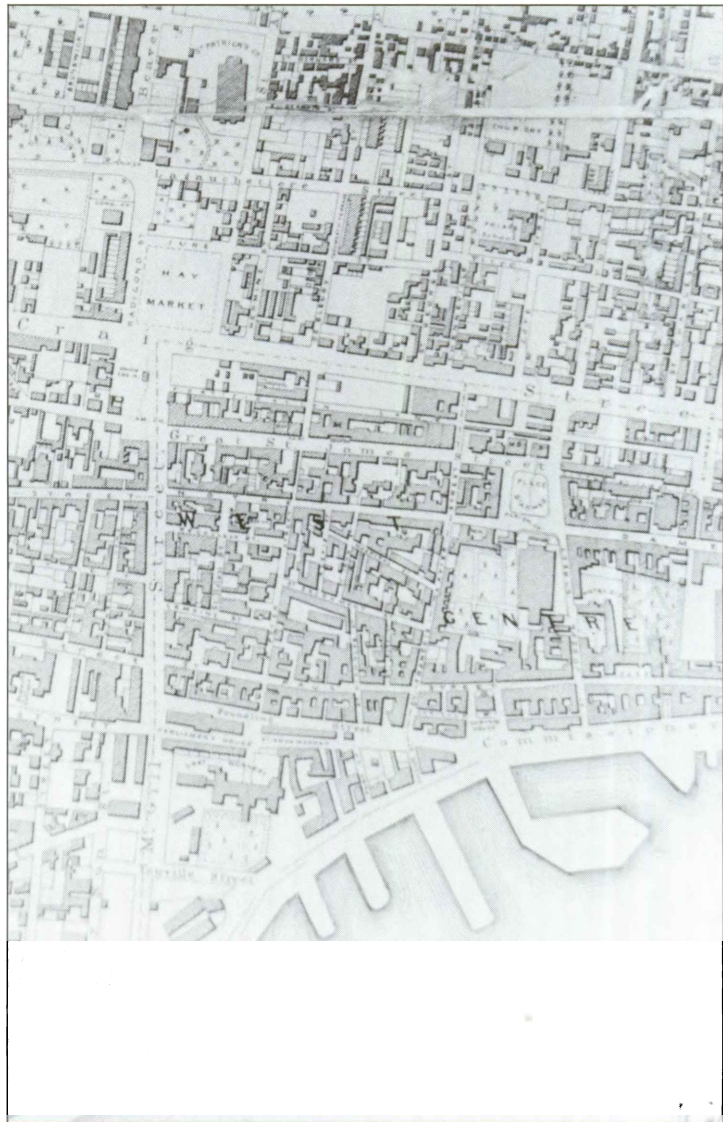
His [Lamontagne's] unconsciously amusing story was his description of a famous match he played in the first week of July on a frightfully hot day with an English Officer who had recently arrived to join the Guards in Montreal, and who had the reputation of being a very fine player. Mr. Lamontagne wrote that Major . . . played magnificently, but that he (Lamontagne) won the match, and three days later Major . . . died! which was indeed the sad fact.



*Edward Lamontagne
The Montrealer who introduced
the game of rackets to
New York City in the 1850's*

In the early days, the rackets ball contained a small marble while the rackets themselves were similar to the rudimentary tennis rackets which had been used in the British prisons. Gilmour's discussion of Lamontagne's reminiscences continues with:

Another incident in connection with this old Court was the accident to Major Erle, in latter years General Erle of Majuba Hill fame; during a game of Rackets the ball hit by his opponent struck the socket of his eye, and the eye ball dropped at his feet on the floor of the Court. Major Erle clapped his hands to his face and turning to the spectators in the gallery said with a smile, "The Ladies won't look at me now" – A fine instance of pluck.



An early map of Montreal showing the location of the 1836 court at the southeast corner of Craig and St. Peter Street

Two famous Montrealers who had joined this fledgling club on St. Peter Street were Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine and Charles-Ovide Perrault. These men, drawn from the comfortable and respectable French middle-class, flirted with rebellion in 1837 and distinguished themselves during the next several years in the struggle with British authorities. Montreal rackets players, it seems, were active on both sides of the rebellion.

Political grievances were at the root of French discontent during the 1830's. The Crown appointed both the Executive and the Legislative Councils, with only the Assembly being elected by the population. In effect, the French *Patriotes*, led by La Fontaine, Perrault, and Papineau, wanted to control all three branches of government, a situation that the British minority feared and resisted.

Open conflict broke out after the *Patriotes* drew up an Act of Independence. In 1837, British troops engaged the rebels at St. Denis on the Richelieu River. This confrontation of November 23, 1837 is described in Elinor Kyte Senior's book *Redcoats and Patriotes, The Rebellions in Lower Canada, 1837-38*:

As the afternoon wore on, both sides reserved their fire for sure targets. When Ovide Perrault saw some *Patriote* pickets unwittingly expose themselves, he drew [*Patriote* leader] Nelson's attention to it, saying he would warn them of their danger. Nelson shouted, "No, no Perrault. Don't go; I forbid you." Perrault protested that he would run, but Nelson replied, "Don't go. You are a dead man if you do it." Unheeding, Perrault dashed out the door and before he had darted many steps, he was mortally wounded, the only *Patriote* chief to be killed south of the St. Lawrence.

Members of the Montreal Racket Club fought for both sides of the rebellion in 1837



During the same battle, another playing member of the St. Peter Street court was shot, this time a British captain named Frederick Markham. The following quotation also appears in Dr. Senior's book:

When [commanding officer] Gore ordered the retreat, soldiers of the 32nd refused to retire without their captain, Frederick Markham, who lay critically wounded in the house opposite the fortified house. A sergeant dashed forward under heavy fire and carried him away, Markham receiving a fourth wound while in the arms of the sergeant. With the wounded in carts and the howitzer in the centre, the regulars withdrew.



*Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine
The first Prime Minister of
Upper and Lower Canada,
who played rackets and
used a special Pitman racket
brought from England*

After the rebellion had been repressed and stability had returned to the legislative process, the reformers, led by La Fontaine, continued to press for change. The result was the merger of Upper and Lower Canada in 1841 and the election of a representative government. The first elected prime minister of the newly-formed union was Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine. With his election, the political involvement of rackets players was established. It would continue until John Turner, another club member, became Prime Minister of Canada in 1984.

The most enduring legacy left from the court on St. Peter Street was a list of its members in 1847. This group of forty-eight gentlemen, the most influential members of early Montreal society, included politicians, bankers, industrialists, newspaper owners, and military officers.

A colourful tale involving one particularly infamous officer whose name appeared on this 1847 club roster is still remembered today. It seems that this officer, Captain Lord Mark Kerr, A.D.C. to Lord Elgin, possessed a reputation for performing amusing equestrian pranks, the most publicized of which was the riding of his horse straight into the dining room and around the tables of Montreal's fashionable Donegana's Hotel.

The visitors, many of whom were American, sat stunned as the officer rode past their tables. As the manager rushed in, Lord Mark Kerr galloped out onto St. Paul Street and waited for the unamused man. "Oh, my Lord, this will ruin me!" the



*Donegana's Hotel
A popular spot with
the British officer class*

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DONEGANA'S HOTEL,

Corner of Notre Dame and Bonsecours Streets,
MONTREAL.

The Proprietor begs to return his thanks to the Public for the very liberal support which he received while lessee of "Rasco's Hotel," and would respectfully inform them that he has now completed the fitting-up and furnishing of his present

MAGNIFICENT ESTABLISHMENT,
which in every respect that contributes to comfort and enjoyment is unsurpassed by any Hotel upon the North American Continent.

THE SITUATION
is central, delightful, and salubrious, being within a short distance of the Public Offices, Banks, City Hall, &c. It stands upon the highest ground within the limits of the City proper, and commands a

Splendid View
of the City, River, and the beautiful Country south of the St. Lawrence.

THE ACCOMMODATIONS
are of the very first order, in point of elegance and convenience, and

EXCELLENCE OF THE CUISINE
will be constantly supplied with every delicacy and luxury which can be obtained in the Markets of Montreal or New York.

Owing to the large number of guests who can be entertained,

The Charges will be exceedingly Moderate,
And the Proprietor pledges himself that no exertion nor expense will be spared by him which may tend to contribute to the health, comfort, and enjoyment of those who may honor him with their support.

J. M. DONAGANA.

July, 1847.



Lord Mark Kerr, an officer stationed in Montreal, rode his horse through the doors of Donegana's Hotel. His nickname was "Lord Mad Kerr" and he was an accomplished rackets player.

hotelier cried, following him outside, to which Lord Mark Kerr responded by handing him one hundred dollars. The manager returned to the hotel, smiling, and explained the prank. Several of the guests then took out their notebooks and recorded the incident, dubbing him Lord Mad Kerr, after which they immediately wrote invitations to him to come to New York. This bold feat was later repeated by a present-day rackets man who interrupted a Tuxedo Park, New York cocktail party one invitational week-end in the early 1970's by riding a horse through the door.

The court on St. Peter and Craig Streets stood for at least eleven years. During that time, however, the rain and snow had taken their toll, likely rendering the wooden floors and walls quite useless.

OTHER COURTS 1847 – 1862

An announcement appearing in *The Montreal Gazette* on April 19, 1847 confirms that club members were, by now, searching for new quarters and that some steps had been taken towards constructing a new court.

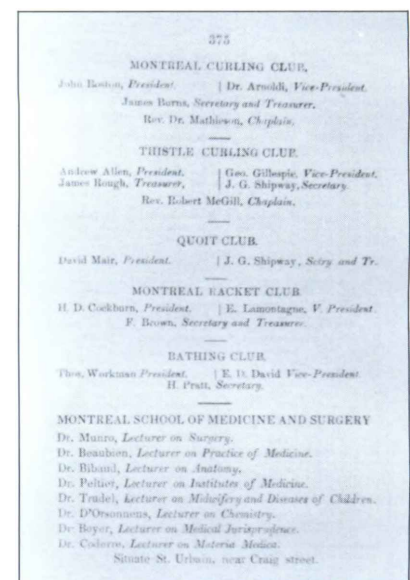
Montreal Racket-Court

A meeting of those gentlemen
who have already subscribed
to the STOCK for the erection
of the New ENCLOSED COURT will
take place at ORR'S Hotel,
Notre Dame Street this EVENING,
at EIGHT o'clock when some matters
of importance will be submitted.

A second article appearing in the newspaper of the same date described the enthusiasm with which a new court would be received in the community.

We perceive by advertisement in another column, that a meeting of the shareholders in the new Racket Court takes place this evening, at Orr's Hotel.

We are glad to find that the prospects of having a new covered court, where this game can be



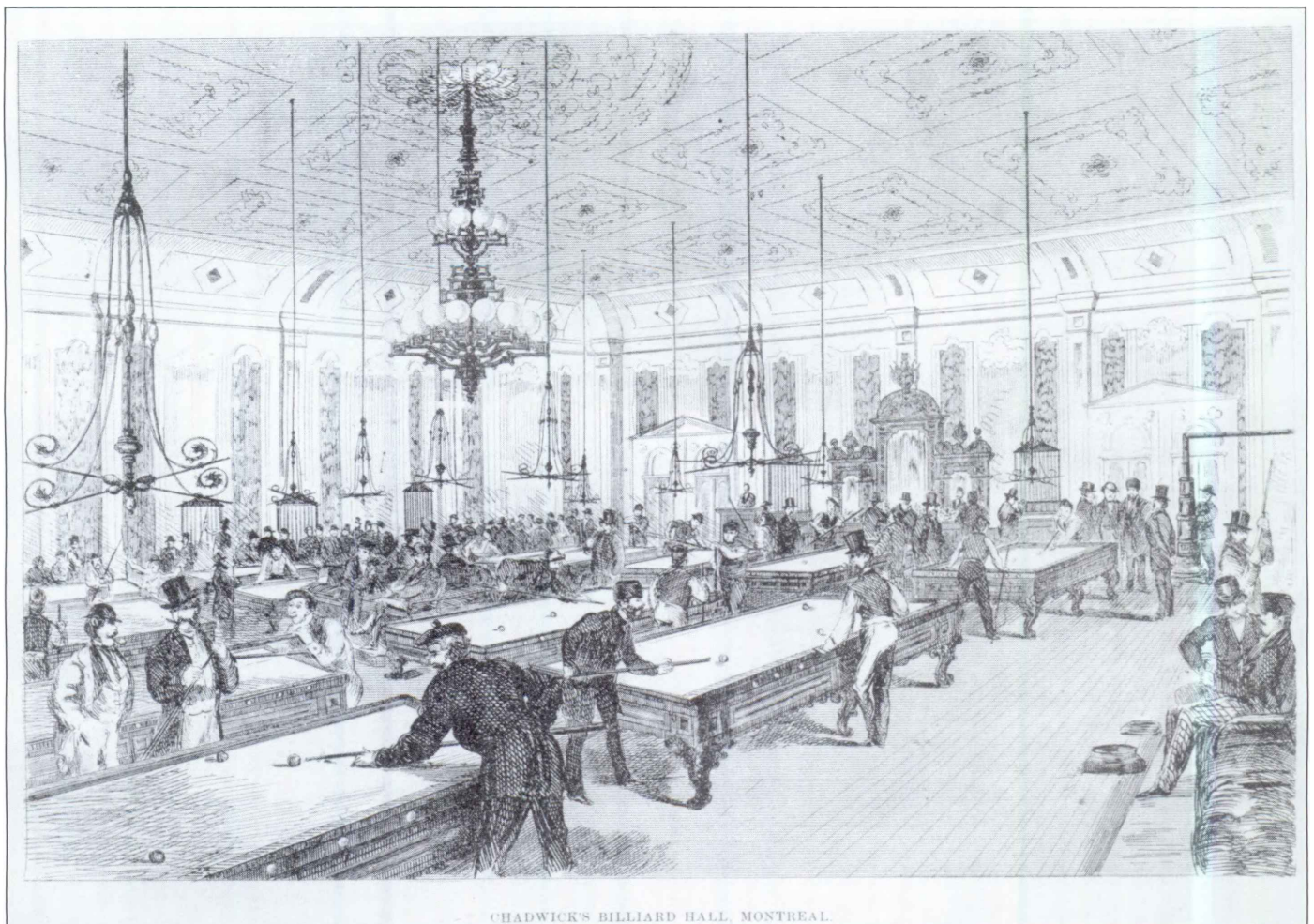
enjoyed the year round, are now beyond doubt, more than one-half the stock having, in the course of a few days, been subscribed; this augurs well for the spirit of the Montrealers.

We really think that a few good rubbers at rackets are calculated to do more good to the frame, and keep it clear from the effects of gout and rheumatism, than the contents of a dispensatory. The mind is equally benefitted by the good results which the constitution derives from the enjoyment of this most healthful exercise and truly British sport. We wish our friends every success in their undertaking.

We may mention as a proof of the utility in which the game is now held by the authorities that whenever new barracks are being erected, racket-courts, for the use of the officers and privates, are considered a necessary appendage.

(Opposite) The 1847 Membership List. The original hangs in the Concord Street club's dining room.

A billiard hall at St. Peter and St. James Streets around the corner from the rackets court



Members of the Montreal Racket
Court Club.

Sept 30 1847

Mr. Jas. Brown	Mr. L. Montague
Wm. B. Hartley	Mr. Hatcher
Orlando Brown	Capt. Jones 23rd
Geo. Brown	Lord. M. R. Kerr 4th
T. Burtwell	Mr. Ed. Lamentagne
on Mr. O'Brien	~~Mr. Lamentagne~~
Capt. Chester 23rd	G. Lamentagne
Mr. C. B. Castle	C. Tr. Meredith
J. A. Gray	W. L. Macdonald
J. H. Connolly	Geo. Maffett Jr.
Wm. Ballantyne	Geo. Wood
Geo. Debarats	Grant Powell
+ ~~Robertson~~	Thos. Ryan
+ ~~Robertson~~	W. M. Robertson
Hon. Wm. Daly	Robt. Ballantyne
A. Egerton A.D.C.	37. J. Craven
Mr. J. B. Greenshield	38. J. Macdonald
T. Gates	C. H. J. Fairwood
Major Gravelle 23rd	~~Thos. Ross~~
Mr. Lino Gordon Jr.	George Watson
Ang. Newcom	G. Phillips 23rd
J. H. Harrington	John Lockhart
Capt. P. W. Richardson	J. S. Taylor
	E. W. Bell 23rd
	~~Wm. Brown~~
	W. D. Brown



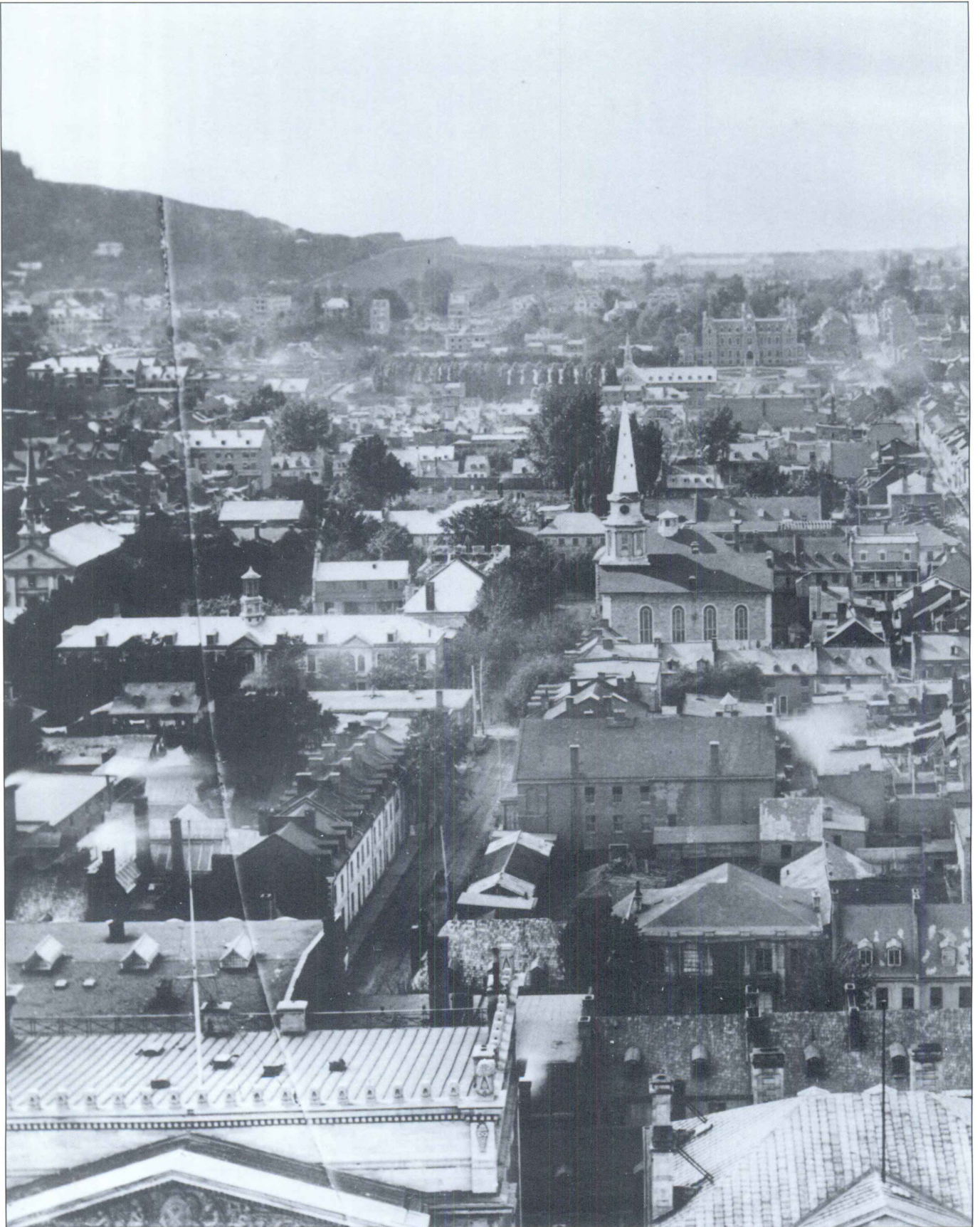
The commercial expansion of Montreal in the mid-nineteenth century was to bring changes to the Montreal Racket Court

(Opposite) One of the buildings just below the church seen in the centre of the photo would have housed the court on Côté Street.

These two articles may have been written in reference to the court which was later built only two blocks north on the corner of Jurors and Bleury Streets. No records can be located, however, concerning either the construction of the building or the length of time during which the club occupied these premises.

It seems that the courts built between 1847 and 1862 were makeshift in nature, often being constructed within buildings already in existence. That area of the city north of the financial district was quickly becoming a grimy mix of row housing and industrial properties. Builders were tearing down warehouses at a frantic pace and erecting factories, schools, churches, and houses in their places. The landscape between Craig Street and Mount Royal was in a constant state of change.

In 1860, a court was built on Côté Street adjacent to the Royal Theatre. This would have been an ideal location for the military officers as they were strong patrons of the arts, and many were actors at the theatre. Again, little is known of the details of this court.



THE ST. GEORGE STREET COURT 1862 – 1870's

The game of rackets continued to increase in popularity, and on March 11, 1862, *The Montreal Gazette* again announced a meeting for the subscribers of a new court.

Montreal Racket Club

A meeting of the subscribers to the Montreal Racket Court was held yesterday at Dolly's and a committee appointed to make arrangements for the purchase of a lot and erection of a Court. The subscriptions amount to \$3,600. We are glad to see there is a prospect of this manly game being included in the list of athletic amusements in Montreal and hope the citizens will not allow it to fall through for want of the few hundred needful to make up the requisite amount.

The following gentlemen were appointed as the committee, Col. Peacocke, 16th Reg.; Col. Campbell, Scots F. Guards; Capt. Grant, R.E. A.D.C.; Osborne Smith Esq.; H. Abbott Esq.; C.A. Hamilton Esq.; W.M. Ramsay Esq.; and Joseph Walker Esq.

The merits of several lots of ground as sites for the new building were taken into consideration, and the committee expects to be able to decide upon one in every way suitable for the purpose by Thursday, after which immediate steps will be taken to insure completion of the Court by a very early date.

A numerous signed list of shareholders was presented, and a few additional subscribers are only required to complete the amount requisite for the erection of the building.

The response that this announcement generated eventually resulted in the construction of a court located on St. George Street between Craig Street and Fortification Lane. After fifteen years of temporary lodgings, the club had a splendid new court.

It is vividly described in George Gillespie's article:

The side and back walls of this court were of two-inch narrow planking, firmly attached to the brick walls, and the front playing wall of finely chiselled limestone up to a height of fifteen feet, finished above with solid cement to the roof. There were good side and top lights. The court was painted dark red, with the inside of the roof and part of the sides whitewashed.

Large dressing rooms and two bowling alleys were included in this building, and as completed it was called the Montreal Racket Court. It became the property of the Montreal Racket Court Club on the 25th of March, 1862, the deed being signed on its behalf by Mr. Charles A. Hamilton, its first Secretary-Treasurer.

The St. George Street court was in use until the early 1870's. It was eventually sold to the proprietors of *The Montreal Star* who later pulled it down.

The Gazette Building, once home to The Montreal Star, stands on the site of the first St. George Street court





THE SECOND COURT ON ST. GEORGE STREET

1876 – 1889

The next court was located nearby on St. George Street between Jurors and Vitre Streets on land that was at one time owned by a prominent Montrealer, Mr. J.H. Joseph. It would appear that Joseph sold a block of land to a Mr. L. Hennault in 1870, and that in 1876, this same land was purchased from Hennault by a certain Mr. Robert Craige Hamilton, then listed in Lovell's 1881 Directory as the Secretary and General Manager of the Montreal Racket Court. An ice-house, which was easily converted into a rackets court, occupied this piece of land. In Gilmour's "Memoirs of Rackets in Canada", a description of this building is cited:

The entrance to the premises was two steps above the street level and led into a narrow passage way at the other end of which was the door leading to the Court. On the left side of this passage way were the rooms belonging to the tenants of the house which was a small three storey brick building forming one of a terrace of working men's houses on the west side of the street half way between Craig and Lagauchetière Streets. Bridger, the marker who had been brought out from England in 1881 by F.M. David, lived with the tenants and eventually married one of the daughters.

The Club had only two rooms on the first floor, one on either side of the stair case landing. The larger on the north side was used as a dressing room, the walls lined with lockers with simple benches in the centre of the room, there was no other furniture. The smaller room across the landing was provided with bath, etc.

The Court itself was of wood – strongly secured three inch narrow planking, well lighted from the sides and painted black. It was regulation size 30x60. The back wall was not at right angles, the left receiving Court being slightly obtuse, while the right was correspondingly acute. The front walls and side walls were slow compared to the



*J.H. Joseph
An early member of the club*

(Opposite) An 1879 street plan of Montreal gives the precise location of the second court on St. George Street

(Overleaf) The Montreal Racket Court is the windowless, rectangular building on St. George Street, west and slightly north of the Montreal Type Foundry





modern Courts but the floor which was polished like glass was very fast. The balls kept low with the result that wrist or "flick" shots were more essential. The game, therefore, was spectacular and graceful, though perhaps less effective than now.

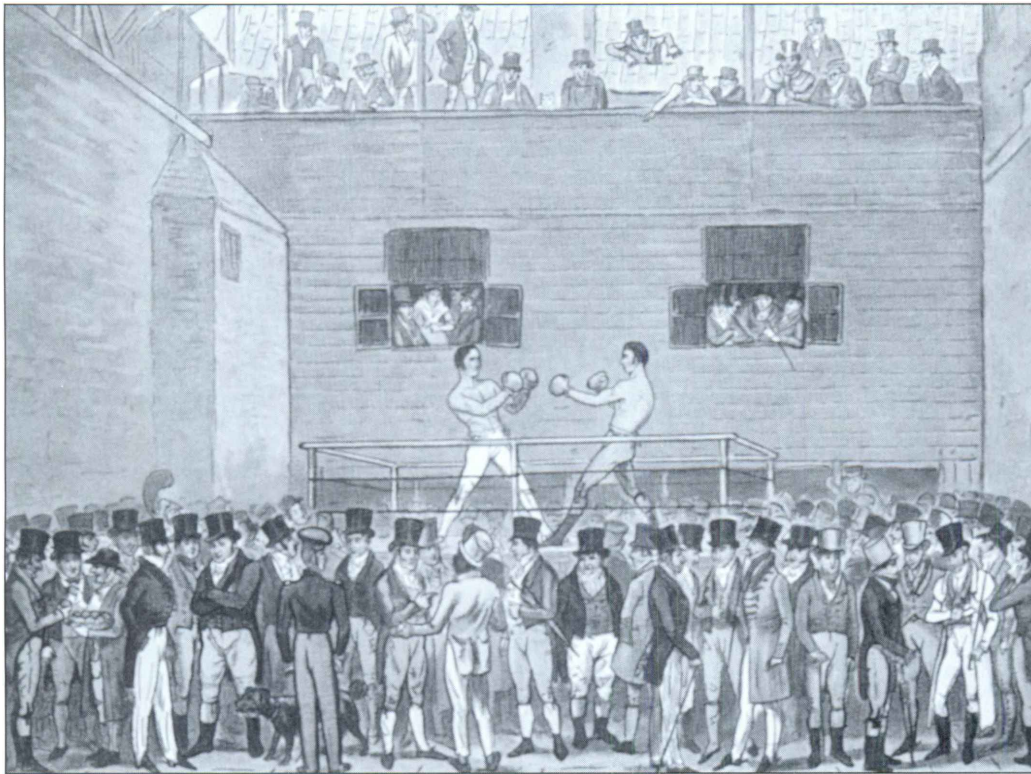
Suddenly, rackets was barely holding its own as a sport in Montreal, judging by the description of this court compared with its forerunner down the street near Fortification Lane. What had happened to the game since the Imperial troops departed for England, and Canada had become a self-governing dominion? What direction would the game take without military support?

Several interesting developments occurred. One group welcomed into the court was a select ladies' club called the Sewing Club. This group would have tea parties, and later, dances in the court on special occasions. Not to be invited to the rackets court for a Tea or Dance almost amounted to social ostracism. Indeed, tea, rackets, and dancing proved to be an excellent mix. The Sewing Club and the Racket Club then joined ranks to form the Castinet Club as well as a dancing club called the Almacks of Montreal. It is not recorded whether the Castinets or the Almacks performed during the intermissions of important rackets matches, or what was served with tea.

On the sporting side, two not-so-socially acceptable side attractions developed: boxing and ratting. Both involved heavy gambling and provided some spectacular evening entertainment for the membership. Tea and dancing were most likely not on the program during these "stag" events.

There were several boxing gyms in the city, the most famous of which was Richardson's Boxing Academy on St. James Street, run by a "Negro pugilist". The rackets court was the scene of many excellent bouts. The major difference between boxing in the 1800's and the modern sport was that there was then no set number of rounds. The spectacle, therefore, was particularly bloody as the fight would last until one man was knocked unconscious by his opponent. The betting crowd at the court would be well entertained during a boxing evening.

Another sport fashionable in London and introduced to Canada was ratting. The opportunity for members to pit their best terriers against each other in the uplifting sport of rat-killing



(out of the sight of curious neighbours and the law), provided further distraction during the long winter months. It was a strange sight to behold the grimy St. George Street full of equipages, four-in-hands, tandems, and pairs, all in the charge of smartly-liveried grooms awaiting their masters.

Montreal was Canada's premier port in the nineteenth century, so rats were both known and feared. To prepare for an evening of rapping, the club professional would visit the port and negotiate for several sacks of vermin.

Back at the club, the rats were held in cages, as many as fifty stuffed in together. The men would crowd into the gallery while the court below was made ready. Contemporary accounts tell us that, at the sight of vermin, the terriers would snarl and bark fiercely.

Bets were made on how many rats a dog could kill, for example, twenty rats in four minutes. An assistant would then pluck twenty rats from a cage, tossing them loose in the court. The terrier would finally be let at the rats, striking out at them, biting, twisting, and flinging them in the air or down on the court floor to break their necks. Some rats would fight back, catching hold of a dog by the nose.

The court would be spattered in blood. The dog, exhausted

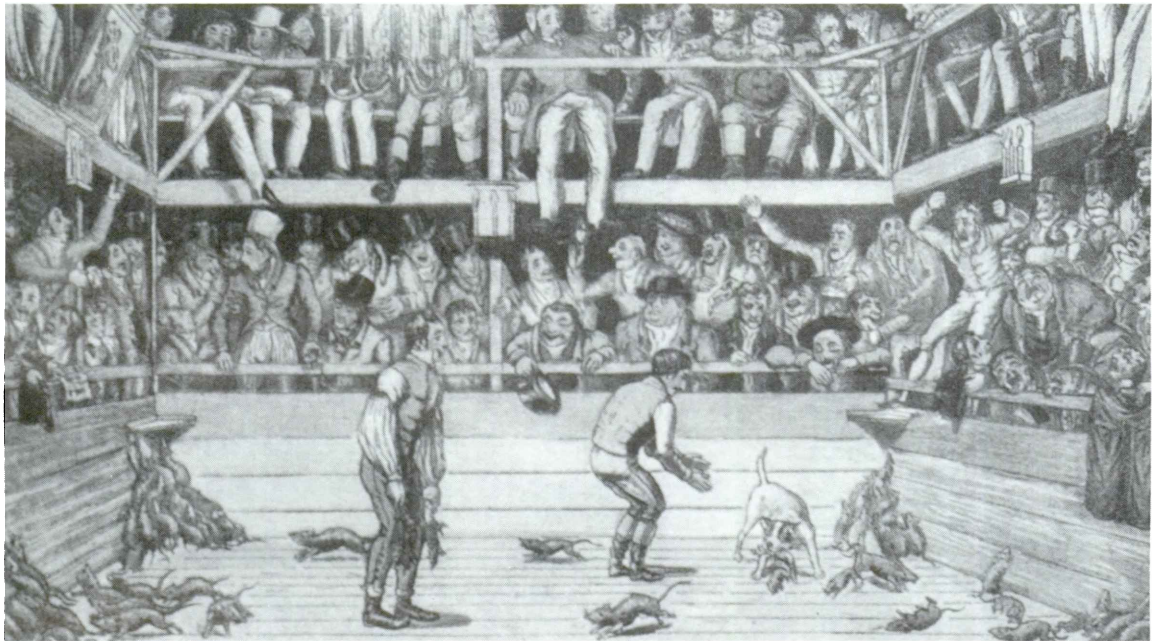
Ball courts throughout the Empire hosted boxing matches. The Montreal Racket Court was no exception.

The gentlemen of the club and their prize terriers arrive at the rackets court for an evening of ratting. This rather bloodthirsty pastime precipitated the rule in the new Concord Street court banning dogs from the premises. This rule still exists although it is not enforced.



Illustration by Carlo Italiano





The celebrated dog, Billy, killed one hundred rats at the Westminster Pit

but still alive, would be pulled from the court when the time was up, as were any live rats, only to be stuffed back into the cage for another go later.

While it seems a bloodthirsty sport today, it was acceptable at the time not only in Montreal, but in London where it was popular in clubs and taverns. The practice of holding this savage sport in the rackets court came to an end when the club moved north to its new premises in 1890. Indeed, to discourage this barbaric behaviour, a by-law was written into the club constitution outlawing dogs in the club.

Whether the club could have survived among the fleshpots of "downtown" much longer is a matter of conjecture. The membership had dwindled to less than forty hard-core players. The clubhouse was set in the middle of the working-class section of Montreal; the building itself was decayed and badly in need of repair. Most damaging to the reputation of the sport itself, however, was the "after hours" conduct of the membership, whose participation in amusements such as the destruction of vermin was gradually destroying the finer traditions of the game. It was most likely that the Sewing Club, the Castinet Club and the Almacks had long ago been disbanded. One wonders how many "respectable" members now dared to visit the grungy, converted ice-house to play the sport.

It was through the efforts of one member that the club and the game of rackets did not disappear forever from the Montreal

sporting scene. The courts in Halifax and Hamilton had long disappeared, and the Quebec City club was struggling to survive in its new court. There were also very few courts in the United States in the 1880's, and the North American trend was leaning to more modern outdoor sports, such as tennis, that could be enjoyed by a greater number of participants.

It was an obscure English gentleman, Mr. Florance Meredith David, who had played the game at school in England and had joined the Montreal club in the early 1880's who was to be the saviour of the game in Montreal. It was David who single-handedly found the property, and then supervised the design and construction of the present-day clubhouse on Concord Street. The club's guardian angel had arrived just in time. The new "uptown" club, located close to the great gardened estates of its members, was to be the headquarters of rackets in Canada. Indeed, it would soon be the only court left in the Dominion where one could play this fine English sport.

*(Top left) Site of 1825 court:
Sanguinet and Craig Streets
looking south*

*(Top right) Site of 1836 court:
Southwest corner of St. Peter
and Craig Streets*

*(Bottom left) Site of 1847 court:
Corner of Bleury and Jurors Streets
(Jurors no longer exists)*

*(Bottom right) Site of 1876 court:
St. George Street (now called
Jeanne Mance Street)*





CHAPTER FOUR

THE NEW CLUB ON CONCORD STREET AN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

In 1989, the Montreal Racket Club initiated proceedings to have its Concord Street building declared an historic site and classified as a cultural property of the Province of Quebec. This chapter consists of extracts from the analysis written for this purpose by Montreal architectural historian, Susan Wagg.

AN ARCHITECTURAL OVERVIEW

ONE OF A HANDFUL OF RACKETS CLUBS IN NORTH America, the Montreal Racket Club is not only a unique building in the city and in the Province of Quebec, it is unique in Canada. It is the only surviving, purpose-built rackets club in this country.

It is truly unfortunate that the name of the original architect or builder of the Montreal Racket Club remains a mystery, for the structure is not only one of a kind in the city today but was so when it was constructed in 1889. It represents the finest and most elaborate of the six uncovered and covered rackets courts built in Montreal during the nineteenth century.

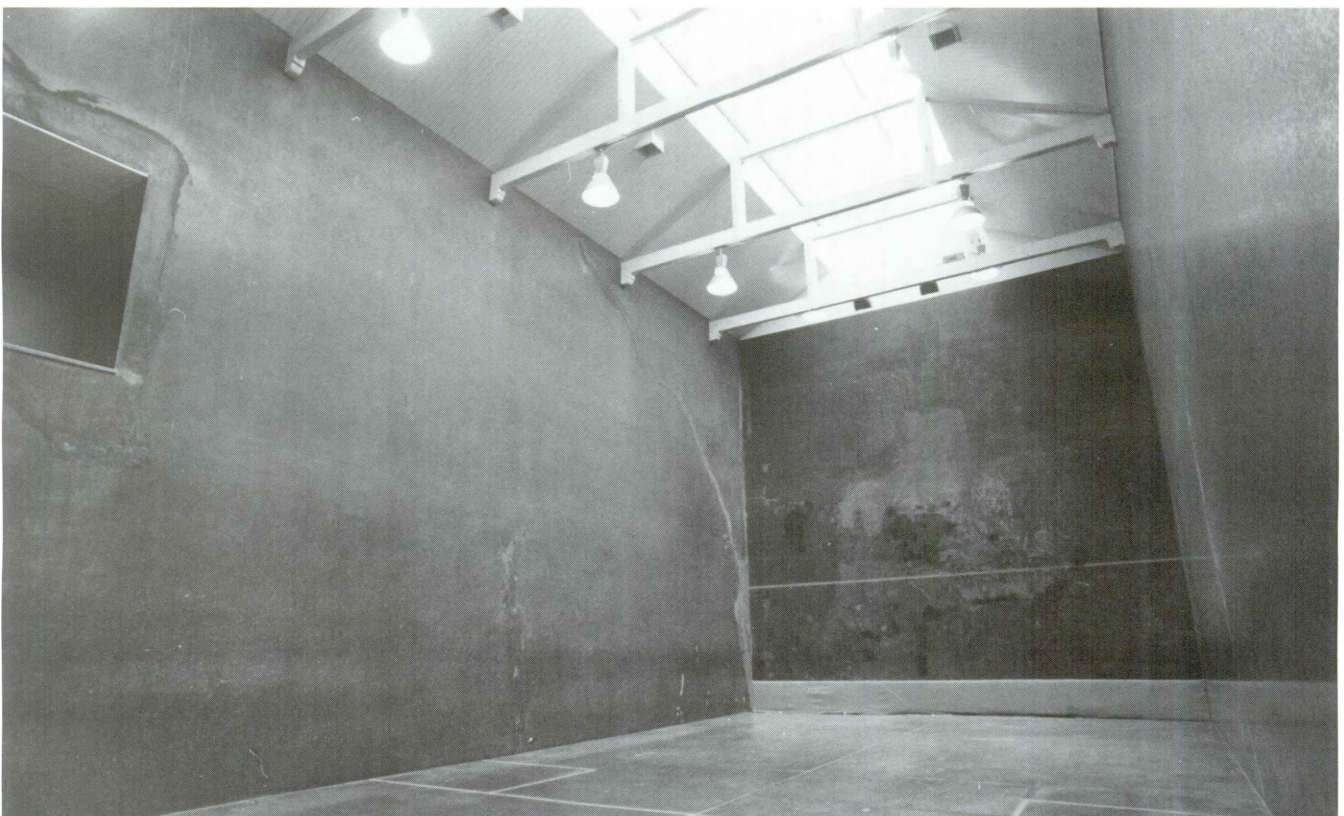
From an architectural point of view, the exterior is a fascinating example of the mixture of French and British influence that is a distinguishing feature of so much of the historic architecture of Quebec. The three original rubble-stone side and back walls stem directly from the oldest French manner of building in Quebec while the 'Queen Anne' façade was inspired by a style popular in late-Victorian England. The simplification and restraint of the exterior, although no doubt prompted primarily by the wish to keep costs low, is also typical of Canadian architecture in general.

*(Opposite) Montreal Racket Club
as it stands today*

Such a building could not have been built in the United States, in England, or in any other province. In the United States, the 'Queen Anne' style developed into something notably un-English and was termed the 'Shingle Style' by the well-known architectural historian Vincent Scully. 'Queen Anne' in England was far more elaborate than the plain version used for the Montreal club while the combination of a 'Queen Anne' façade with subsidiary elevations of traditional Québécois rubble-stone would have been unusual in any other province in Canada. The use of the rubblework and simplified 'Queen Anne' styling suggests that no architect was used. Indeed, the original club may well have been the accomplishment of a skilled builder who worked closely with Florance David, the member who both initiated and supervised the project.

The outstanding architectural features of the interior are, of course, the rackets court itself and the fine panelled dining room. It is on the walls of the latter that much of the history of rackets in Canada is recorded by means of the gold-lettered panels which display the dates and the names of the annual tournament champions.

Interior of the rackets court



THE ORIGINAL CONCORD STREET COURT

Original plans and elevations have not survived, and no contemporary photographs of the newly-erected club as it appeared in 1890 have been located. However, the club is in possession of a set of plans prepared by Montreal architect, Howard C. Stone, at the time the building was extended in 1911. These plans include a front elevation which not only indicates the original appearance but reveals that it has not been altered. At the time of its completion, the new premises of the Montreal Racket Club was a freestanding structure comprising three stories and a basement. The building was divided into two parts: a block fronting on Concord Street, in which the three floors of club rooms were located, and the high, rectangular rackets court which extended back from this section and was covered by its own pitched roof pierced by a skylight.

CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS

The building was solidly constructed, its load-bearing masonry walls composed primarily of stone rubblework which, at the time of writing, can only be seen on the west elevation. Measurement shows it to be as much as two feet three inches thick at some points. It is known that the back wall was originally almost five feet thick. While the three subsidiary stone elevations were handled simply, the façade facing Concord Street was treated more elaborately. It was covered with stucco, and painted wood was used for the door and window trim. Coursed quarry-faced ashlar appears at the basement level. The material underlying the stucco has not been determined but is undoubtedly some form of masonry. Thirty-two courses of red brick appear at the uppermost level of the side (west) elevation, filling in that portion of the block extending above the side wall of the rackets court.

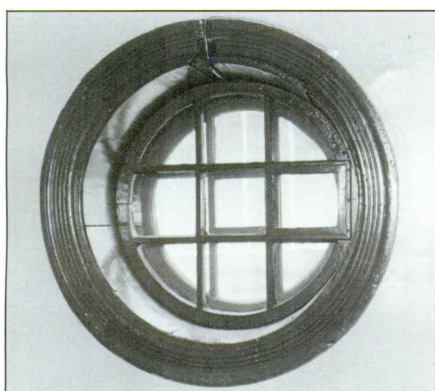
STYLISTIC TREATMENT

The stylistic treatment of the façade is a simplified version of picturesque English 'Queen Anne', a manner popular in Montreal in the 1880's. It was a style used chiefly for houses, few of which survive today. The Redpath House (1884-85),



Skylight in court

located at 3457 Avenue du Musée and partially demolished illegally in 1986, is a fine example rendered in brick. 'Queen Anne' is, nevertheless, perfectly suitable for a club, a building type with a dual nature, having aspects of both a public building and a private home. This style had earlier been used in the United States by the noted New York architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White for a racket sports club, the Newport Casino (1880-81), located in Newport, Rhode Island. The celebrated Casino accommodated court and lawn tennis but not the game of rackets. The Montreal Racket Club does not, however, resemble the much larger and shingled Casino which exemplifies the American 'Queen Anne' or 'Shingle Style'.



The Montreal club was a unique North American structure. It was much newer than any of the courts elsewhere in Canada. The Montrealers undoubtedly chose the 'Queen Anne' style independently for its English associations and were not influenced by contemporaneous 'Queen Anne' architecture in the United States.

Typical of the 'Queen Anne' style is the way the façade surface of the Montreal Racket Club is varied by means of projecting elements. These include the bracketed bay to the left of the front door, the bracketed-out canopy of this door, and the bracketed overhang into which the dormers are set. Also typical are the wooden balcony (which has not survived) and the varied shapes of the many-paned windows, all featuring the characteristic wooden glazing bars and surrounds. The latter include two rectangular windows, two types of oriels, the Palladian windows of the three dormers, and the oculus over the front door.

ORIGINAL INTERIOR

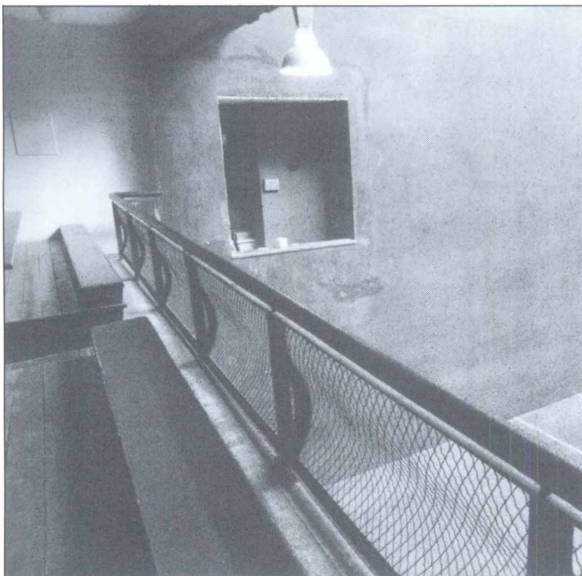
The plans drawn up by Stone at the time the court was rebuilt and the club extended (1910-12) give some indication of the original arrangement of the interior. According to the directors' minutes, the basement contained a bowling alley located under the rackets court. Blocked windows that would have lighted this area appear at the base of the west elevation. The rackets court itself was faced with brick, the walls cemented, the floor asphalted, and the whole painted black. The ground floor front contained the entrance vestibule and stair hall from

which the changing room and shower area were entered and where the door to the rackets court was located.

On the floor above, a beamed and panelled room with a fireplace, embellished with a fine carved wood chimneypiece, occupies the front. This handsome chamber, the most elaborate in the club, survives untouched and serves as a setting for the club trophies which occupy the mantelpiece. The names of champion players from Canada, the United States, and England, beginning in 1891 with that of the first club champion, A.E. Abbott, appear lettered in gold on the dark wooden wall panels. The room is lit by two oriel windows situated in alcoves. These alcoves are set off from the main body of the room by wooden arches, one of which features some attractive, typically 'Queen Anne' spindlework detailing. Now used as the club dining room, this chamber would originally have been the club lounge, for the building was not initially equipped to serve meals. A door at the rear of the present dining room opens into the members' gallery overlooking the rackets court. A second door to the gallery is located in the stair hall. This entrance originally gave access to the marker's box until renovations carried out in 1969 necessitated the relocation of the box to a side wall of the court.

(Below left) The gallery and marker's box

(Below right) The galleries as seen from the rackets court floor





The dining room, with trophies on the mantelpiece and showing the lists of Champions on the back wall and Honorary Members on the left wall, remains virtually unchanged from this 1930 photograph

The uppermost level of the building has a central corridor off of which five small rooms originally opened, probably serving as living quarters for the professional. A narrow visitors' gallery can be entered by a door off one of the rooms at this level.

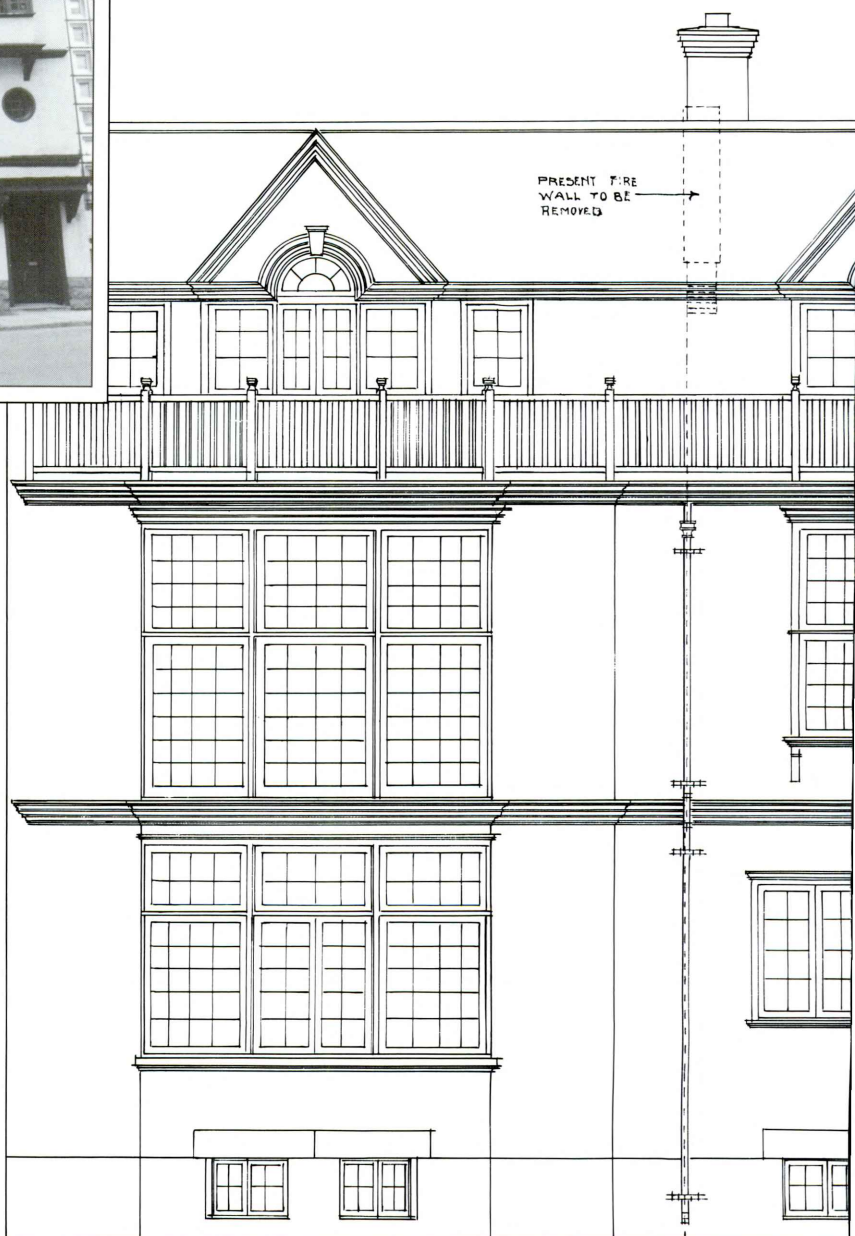
ALTERATIONS AND ADDITION OF 1910-12

According to the directors' minutes, by 1899, consideration was being given to reconstructing the rackets court since it was larger than the sixty feet by thirty feet that had come into general use. Various schemes were considered from time to time including the building of two squash courts on top of the existing structure as well as the purchase of a new property with the idea of building a new clubhouse which would include a rackets court, squash courts, and a court for real or court tennis.

REBUILDING THE COURT

A decade went by with much discussion and no action due to lack of funds. However, the directors' minutes of 5 January 1910 record that a committee was formed and directed "to arrange for plans for a Club House and Court, and to submit a definite scheme, with estimates, at the earliest possible date". The minutes of 19 May record that plans and specifications for rebuilding the court were submitted by architect H.C. Stone and were approved subject to raising the money. The subsequent minutes of 16 June report that the money had been raised and the contracts awarded as authorized at the previous meeting. A contract was awarded providing for alterations to the heating, lavatory, and bathing arrangements in the club as well as for the reconstruction of the court and enlarging of the skylight. These plans, which have survived, show that the rackets court was decreased to a size of sixty feet by thirty feet by constructing new brick walls inside the old court with an air space between and tie rods built in for strength. In addition, the floor of the court was lowered by four feet.

It is probable that the work of rebuilding, or at least the replastering of the court, was done by J.H. Harbour of Chicago, apparently an expert in rackets court walls. Rackets court walls are plastered with a special type of cement developed in England. In anticipation of the pending reconstruction, the directors' minutes of 18 April 1910 state that the secretary was "instructed to write J.H. Harbour of Chicago, offering to pay his expenses to Montreal to examine the court and tender on rebuilding it". Although there is no specific mention that Harbour was awarded the contract, the minutes of 4 May 1911 record that Harbour's final payment of 10% was to be withheld until it could be shown that the cement on the back wall was safe. Obviously, it was not satisfactory. The minutes of 23 June record that Harbour would return to repair the wall while the 12 July minutes state that "John Wighton, a Montreal contractor, had agreed to tear down and/or rebuild the back wall of the rackets court and that J.H. Harbour had agreed to replaster it, both free of cost to the club".



FRONT ELEVATION

PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE
MONTREAL RACQUET COURT CONCORD ST.
H.C. STONE - ARCHITECT —
SCALE $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'0"$

DRAWING NO. 4



THE ADDITION

It seems probable that early in 1910 the property and brick cottage at No. 14 Concord Street which adjoined the club to the east were put up for sale by Dame Elizabeth Fyfe, acting as executrix for the estate of her late husband, Thomas Sonne. On 28 February 1911, a deed of sale was signed for the club's purchase of parts of lots 188 and 189 at the price authorized by the committee.

On 3 February 1911, when it must have been certain that the purchase would be completed, the directors' minutes record that plans for a new squash court as drawn by H.C. Stone were discussed but not acted upon. On 23 June, the minutes note that the president submitted estimates for the demolition of No. 14 Concord Street, the erection of a suitable clubhouse extension on the site, and the building of squash courts (exclusive of plumbing). Two contractors, Byers & Anglin and John Wighton, quoted. The contract was awarded on 12 July to John Wighton.

INTERIOR OF THE ADDITION

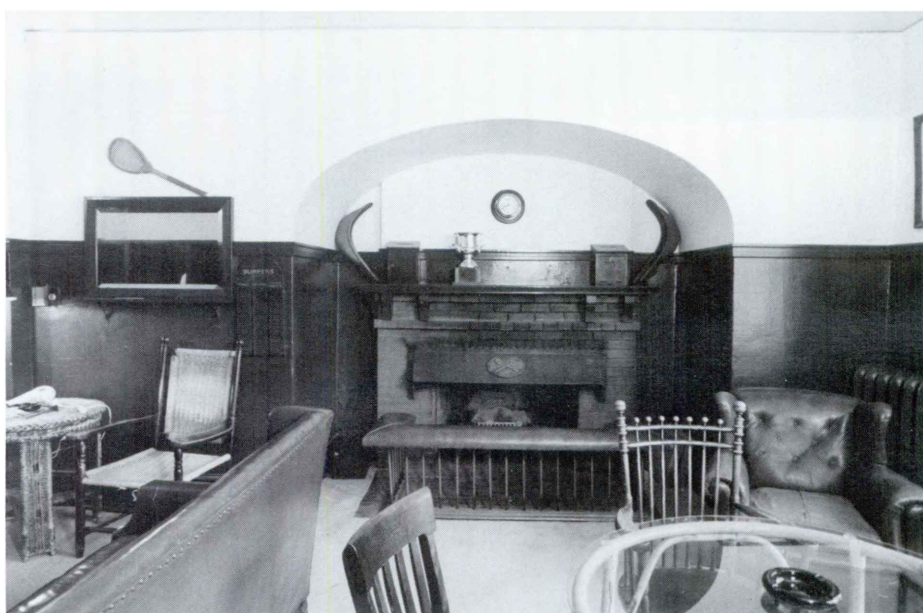
Although Stone's plans are undated, they are stamped "City of Montreal/ Bureau de/ Building Inspection/ Jul. 19 1911/ Approved". The extension was completed by 5 February 1912 when the House and Building Committee was authorized to inspect the new work with the architect before the building was taken over from the contractor.

The rear portion of the new extension situated adjacent to the rackets court accommodated two squash courts thirty-one feet six inches by sixteen feet three inches, one placed behind the other. Along the periphery were corridors at both the ground and first floor levels which terminated in lavatories. The roof of this part of the extension was a full storey lower than the rackets court segment since squash courts do not need to be as high. This height difference is today only visible from President Kennedy Avenue. The front part of the extension, however, was built to the same height as the old building. Here, on the ground floor, additional changing room space was created, entered from the old changing room by means of a door cut through the original east wall. Opening off of the new changing area was a room with wood wainscoting and a brick



(Left) The locker room

(Below) The locker room showing inglenook and fireplace



fireplace set in a cosy inglenook. Located directly above and accessed by a new stairway was a larger room, without a fireplace, which now serves as a billiard room, freeing the old panelled club room next door for dining purposes. A door was also cut through at this level to link these two rooms.

A two-storey bay window overlooking Concord Street lights both the ground and first floor rooms in the new extension. On the top floor, the corridor was extended and four small rooms and a bathroom added. The entire top floor now serves as an apartment for the club manager and accommodates the kitchen.

RACKETS IN CANADA



(Left) The Reading Room



(Right) The President's Lounge

*(Below) The President's Lounge
showing the billiard table*



EXTERIOR OF THE ADDITION

Stone's extension, which steps out slightly from the original building, harmonizes extremely well with the old work. The architect perpetuated the 'Queen Anne' styling but added a certain dash by means of his two-storey, multi-paned bay window. To help tie old and new together, he carried the wooden balustrade across the front of his new bay using the same Palladian dormer treatment. However, he added a small window at either side, providing each of the two new front rooms at the upper level with double windows. The back rooms had windows overlooking the roof of the squash courts which were lit by skylights.

1914 MODIFICATION

The only other significant change prior to 1969 was the modification undertaken in 1914 at the onset of the First World War when the old bowling alleys in the basement under the rackets court were converted for use as a miniature rifle range. This area is presently used for storage.

ALTERATIONS FOLLOWING EXPROPRIATION OF 1968

In 1968, the City of Montreal expropriated approximately seven feet of club property in order to build President Kennedy Avenue. This expropriation affected the south wall of the building which included the front, or head wall, of the rackets court. Because the thickness of the south wall was to be reduced from some four feet ten inches to only twenty inches, the rackets court only had to be shifted by approximately five feet. This necessitated rebuilding the spectators' gallery and relocating the marker's box from this gallery to one side of the court, an unusual arrangement.

The two original squash courts were also removed at this time. In their place, a single squash court was built, leaving space on the ground floor for a new dressing room, shower room, sauna, and an additional stairway leading upstairs and to the basement. The old shower room was replaced by a bar. An existing card room, formerly part of the old changing room area, now serves as a television and game room with a service

window into the newly-created bar. In the oldest part of the building, the entrance hall and main stair were modified slightly with the basement stair being moved to the back hall near the rackets court door.

Upstairs the removal of the squash court lengthened the billiard room and provided sufficient space for a small upstairs bar and an office for the bookkeeper. No changes other than modernization were made to the basement or the top floor. The new rear wall fronting President Kennedy Avenue did not repeat the old rubblework but was composed of brick with concrete buttresses terminating the ends of the rackets court side walls. The architects for this work represented the Montreal firm of Greenspoon, Freedlander, Plachta & Kryton.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

Any unclassified older building in Montreal's downtown core is continually threatened by development pressures. There has been and continues to be a great deal of building in the immediate neighbourhood of the Montreal Racket Club. At the time of writing, the parking lot which adjoins the club on the west side is the proposed site of a twenty-storey hotel.

On its 100th birthday, the Montreal Racket Club is surrounded by high-rise buildings

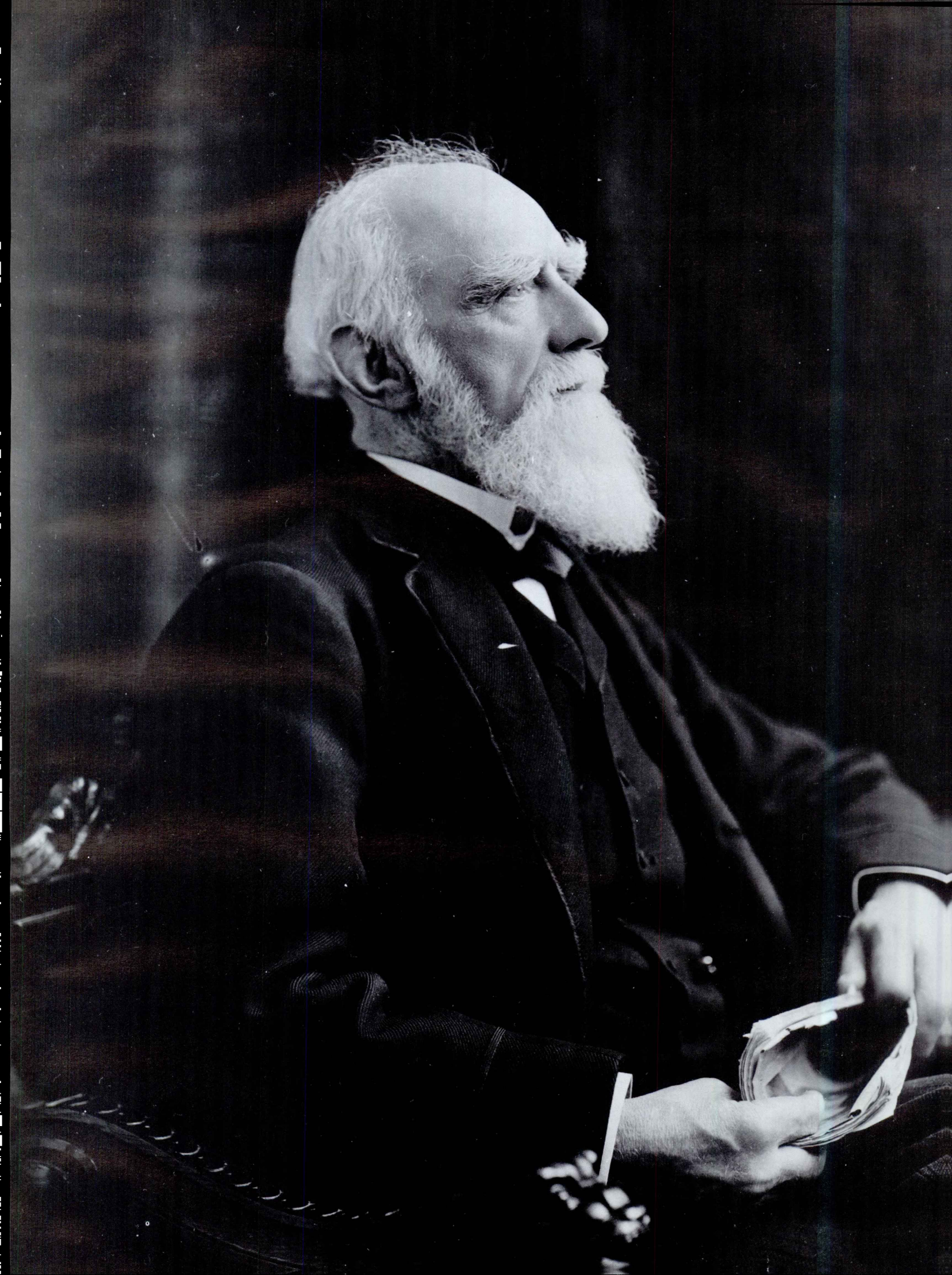


Howard Colton Stone
(died 1918)

Howard Colton Stone, who designed the sympathetic addition of 1911-12, was a notable architect. He designed two of Canada's finest early twentieth century banks: the first Royal Bank of Canada head office (1906-7) which stands at 221 St. James Street and the Bank of Toronto building (1905-7) located at 456 Main Street in Winnipeg.

An American from Northampton, Massachusetts, Stone came to Canada at the turn of the century after working in New York City first for the firm of Cady, Berg & See (later architects of the Museum of Natural History in New York) and then for J.C. Cady & Company. From 1886 onwards, he worked independently. His reasons for coming to Canada are unknown; however, the Dominion was then undergoing rapid growth following the completion of the transcontinental railroad, and there was an abundance of work for architects.

Before his death in 1918, Stone designed several banks in Montreal; Royal Bank branches in both Amherst, Nova Scotia, and St. John, New Brunswick; office buildings such as the Drummond Building (1913-14) at 1117 St. Catherine Street West; factories; and some handsome houses in Montreal. Included among the latter is the F.N. Beardmore House (1905) located at 1415 Pine Avenue West, now the premises of the Cuban Consulate. Stone also had an office in Winnipeg where he designed the Walker Theatre (1906), the Imperial Theatre (1908) and the Bank of Toronto. He is further credited with a house in Ottawa's Rockcliffe Park, and he was responsible for an addition and renovations to the Rideau Club executed between 1909 and 1911. Stone was a member of the Mount Royal and the St. James Clubs, as were many members of the Racket Club.



CHAPTER FIVE

ONE HUNDRED YEARS ON CONCORD STREET

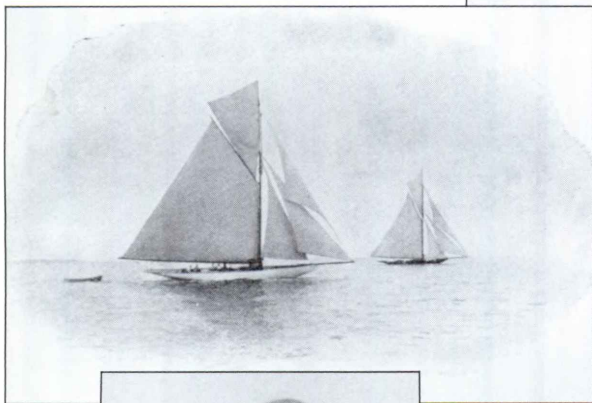
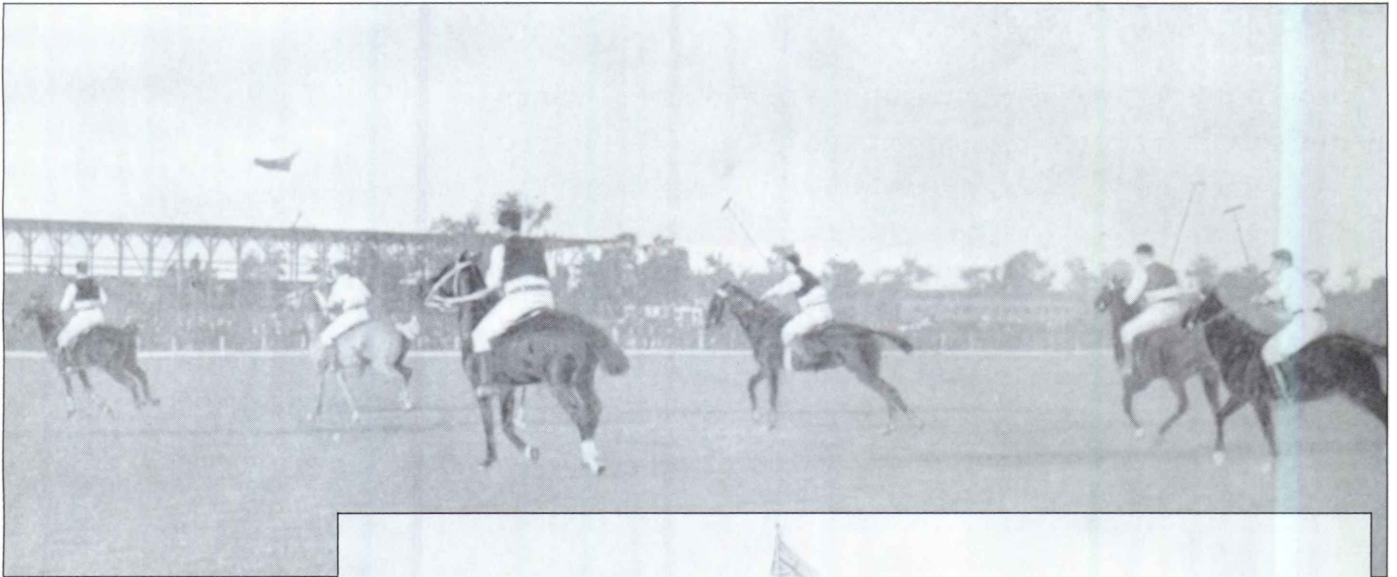
FLORANCE MEREDITH DAVID, A MAN OF MEANS and leisure, is today acknowledged as the prime builder of the present-day racket club facilities on Concord Street. This gentleman alone was the key in keeping the sport of rackets alive and thriving in Montreal. In praise of David, club president George Gillespie later described him as " . . . one of the best all round men that Montreal ever possessed".

Several prominent Montrealers including Edward Clouston, Andrew Allan, and Hanbury MacDougall had continued to play rackets into the latter part of the decade. By the end of the 1880's, however, many new leisure activities had been made available to the captains of industry – polo, golf, tennis, fishing, and yachting, as well as membership at the Hunt Club. The racket club's location on St. George Street was, by now, not very fashionable, sandwiched as it was between St. James Street and the Mount Royal estates in an area quickly becoming a slum. The building that housed the court was at least twenty years old, and in dire need of repair. The locations of the Tea Dances had been shifted northward to trendy hotels such as the Windsor where it had become particularly fashionable to be seen.

From the members' point of view, interest in the club, and in the sport itself, it seems, was quickly waning. Membership was less than forty, and it is doubtful whether there were many matches with visiting English players. Despite the unsavoury surroundings, a general apathy existed among the members, and the notion of moving from the grimy back streets of lower Montreal was not seriously entertained.

It was, fortunately, through the vision of Florance Meredith David, an avid sportsman and club member, that the game, once

*(Opposite) Sir Donald A. Smith
Later Lord Strathcona and
the Honourary President of
the Montreal Racket Club
from 1889 to 1913*



again, flourished in Montreal. It was F.M. David who resolutely pieced together a land package and supervised the construction of the new building and court on land near Sherbrooke and Bleury Streets, apparently at his own expense.

The year was 1889 and Montreal society was experiencing its golden era. The game of rackets had ultimately survived, and when the new court opened for play in the 1890 season, a healthy list of subscribers and players had, once again, been attracted to the game. Together, these sportsmen would ensure both the prestige of the sport and its future in Canada.

THE NEW BUILDING

Concord Street had been built on the farm of Dr. Benjamin Berthelet. Other streets running through his land were named Mayor Street and City Councillors Street in recognition of the fact that Montreal was, for the first time in its history, electing a mayor and a city council. The city motto of "Concordia Salus", officially designated on July 19, 1833, was later acknowledged in the naming of Concord Street.

By 1889, Dr. Berthelet's farm had been completely partitioned into a number of properties, many of which were dominated by stately homes and beautiful gardens. This quarter, situated in close proximity to the slopes of Mount Royal where the rich built their estates, would serve as an ideal location for the new clubhouse. Florance David negotiated with several of the landowners in this area, and it proved to be a formidable undertaking to piece together the land suitable for the new rackets court.

During the late 1880's, David surveyed the block bounded by Bleury, Concord, and Berthelet Streets and made offers on the rear sections of three properties which fronted on Bleury Street. On February 26, 1889, the following extract from the Montreal Ladies Benevolent Society minute book confirms that he had succeeded in obtaining the last section of property which he needed.

It was moved by Mrs. Woodward, Second Directress, seconded by Mrs. Cramp, and resolved:

That the First Directress, Treasurer, and Secretary be authorized to execute a Deed of Sale of 72 feet of land as more particularly described in the said Deed to Mr. Florance Meredith David Esq. of Montreal on the payment of fifty cents per square foot – amounting to Thirty Six dollars.

February 26, 1889

J. Frances Evans

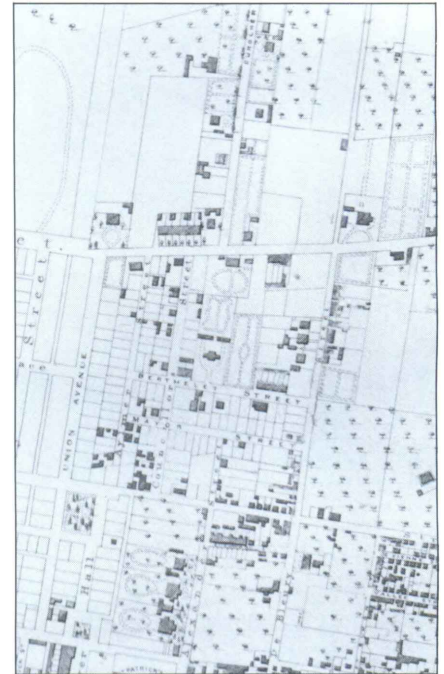
First (1st) Directress L.B.S.

H.W. Thomas

Treasurer L.B.S.

Jane S. Evans

Secretary L.B.S.



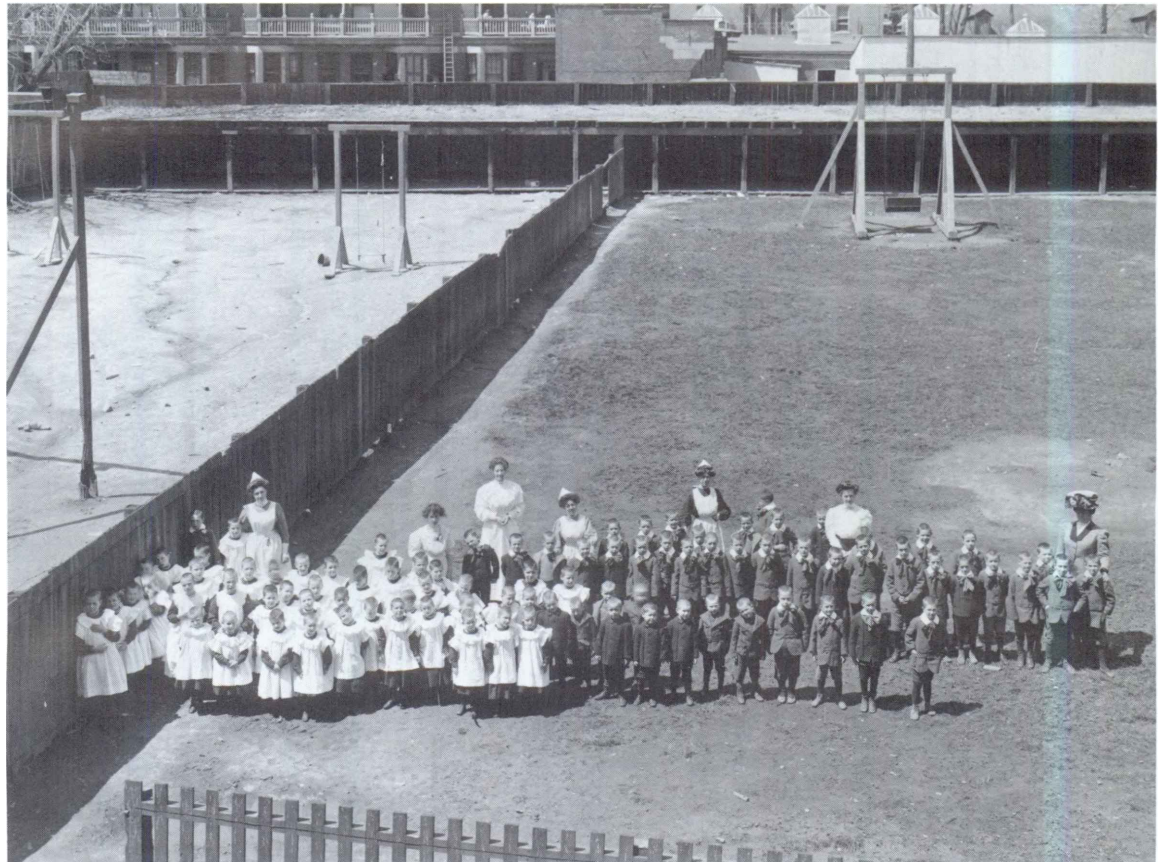
A map of Montreal, circa 1840, showing the estates of the Sherbrooke and Bleury Streets area

(Opposite top) A polo match in Montreal, circa 1900. The visiting team is from Toronto.

(Opposite centre left) Yachting on the St. Lawrence River

(Opposite centre right) The Royal Montreal Golf Club, circa 1900

(Opposite bottom) A gentleman fly fishing



Orphans in the care of the Ladies Benevolent Society. The Society's property was adjacent to the Montreal Racket Club.

The Ladies Benevolent Society, the managers of which included such women of influence as Mrs. Cramp, Mrs. C. Dewey Day, Mrs. Lindsay, Mrs. Notman, Mrs. C.C. Foster, Mrs. P. Hackell, Mrs. G.B. Marler, Miss Geddes, Miss Macintosh, and Miss Baird, was, indeed, a formidable group to have as neighbours. On March 26, 1889, before the signing of the deeds, Mr. David was summoned before the ladies and presented with the following letter – these ladies meant business.

Montreal, March 26, 1889

Mr. F.M. David, Esq.

Dear Sir:

I am desired by the Directresses and Managers of the Ladies Benevolent Society to write to you and say that they will agree to your request to be permitted to have windows opened in your building on the side next their grounds, although it is within the usual limits, on condition that the

glass be painted, and the windows wired or in some way protected against any cost of misuse. Also, that if it is found that complaints have to be made against the children for being troublesome or meddling, the managers will have the privilege of deciding as to the necessity of putting up a fence, your club to bear half the expense.

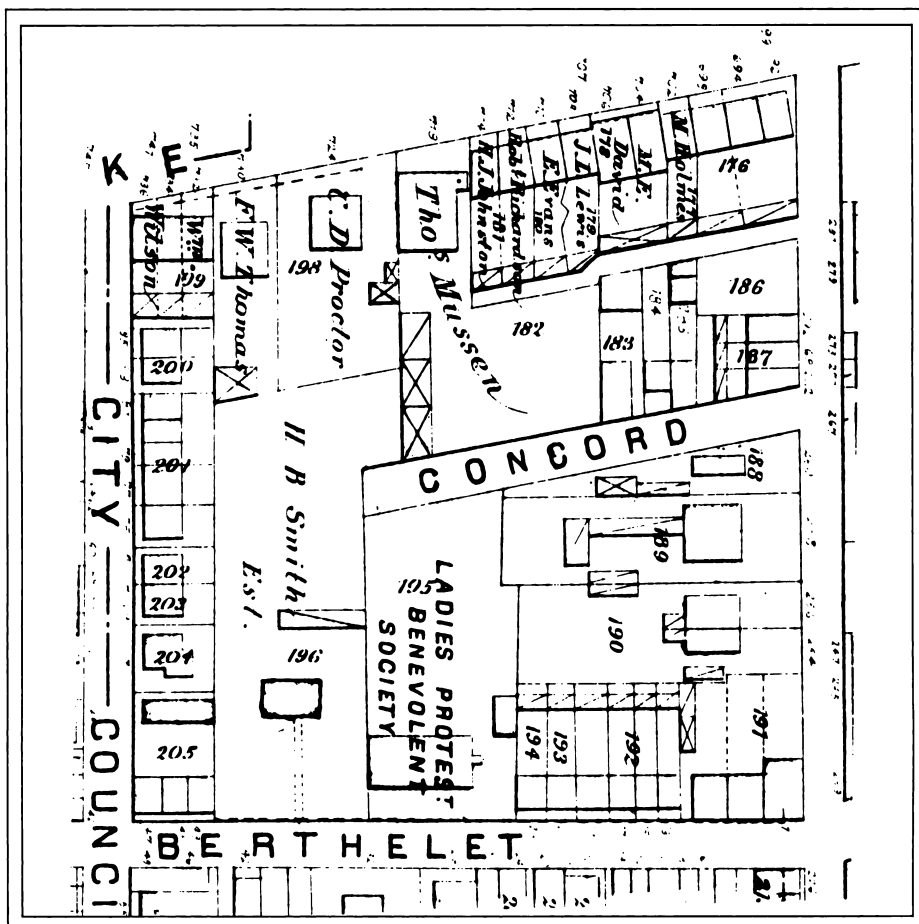
I am Sir,

Truly yours,

Jane S. Evans

Secretary L.B.S.

On March 28, 1889, the following parties appeared at the offices of notary Joseph Evariste Odilon LaBadie: Dame Mary Ann Thompson, wife of John Benson and owner of Lot 188; Dame Susannah Corse, wife of Arthur Fisher, and Dame Mary Corse, wife of Henry Lyman, joint-owners of Lot 189 and part



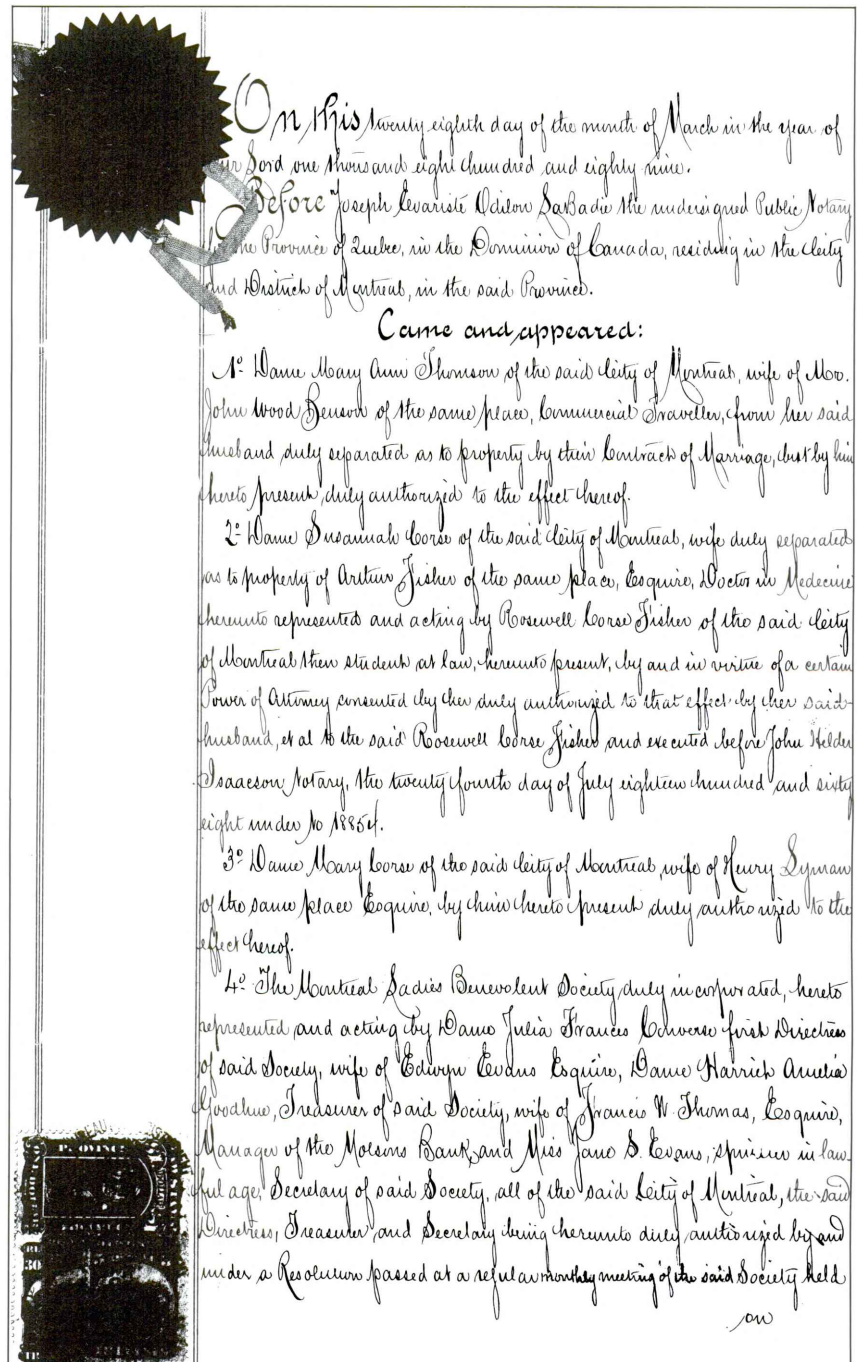
A street plan, circa 1880, showing the location of lots 188, 189, 190, and 195

of Lot 190. Representing the Montreal Ladies Benevolent Society, which owned the remaining portion of Lot 190, were Dame Julia Frances Converse, First Directress and wife of Edwyn Evans; Dame Harriet Amelia Goodhue, Treasurer and wife of Francis Thomas, manager of Molson Bank; and Miss Jane S. Evans, Secretary. The final party present was Mr. Florance Meredith David.

The sale had been negotiated and the parcels of land sold to David. Lot 188 was purchased from Mrs. Benson for a total



Andrew Allan
One of the prominent Montrealers
responsible for the incorporation
of the new club



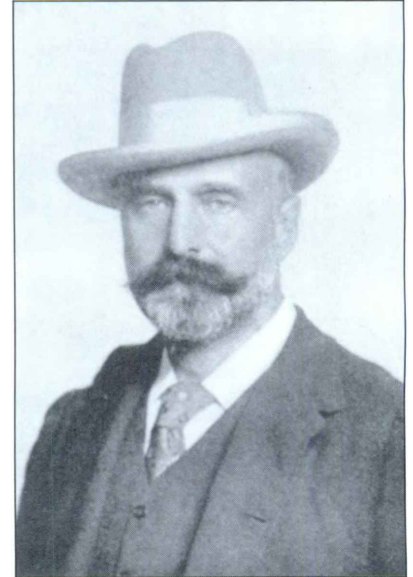
The Deed of Sale for the land
on Concord Street

of \$222.44, or forty cents per square foot. Mrs. Fisher's lots were acquired for \$1,400.00, while the Benevolent Society sold its property for fifty cents per square foot, or a total of \$36.00. The entire sale amounted to \$1,658.44.

Two days later, on March 30, 1889, a petition was presented to the Montreal City Council, requesting formal association as a club under the name of The Montreal Racket Club. This impressive petition was signed by some very prominent Montrealers including, among others, Sir Donald A. Smith, later to become Lord Strathcona, Edward S. Clouston, Andrew Allan, and Arthur E. Abbott. At a city council meeting held on Monday, April 29, 1889, on a motion from Alderman Archibald and seconded by Alderman Wilson, it was resolved:

That the consent and authorization of this Council be granted to "The Montreal Racket Club" to be constituted into a civil Corporation in conformity with article 5487 of the Revised Statutes of the Province of Quebec (1888).

- extract from the minutes of the City Council of Montreal



*Edward Seaborn Clouston
Club President in 1889*

THE
Montreal Racket Club.

INCORPORATION.

The Club was incorporated under the provisions of the Article 5,487 and following Articles of the Revised Statutes of the Province of Quebec.

A petition to the Montreal City Council, dated March 30th, 1889, signed by Sir Donald A. Smith, E. S. Clouston, H. Joseph, F. M. David, J. B. Abbott, Harry Abbott and A. E. Abbott, applying for incorporation, was sanctioned by vote of April 29th, 1889, granting the objects for which incorporation was sought, viz.: the acquisition of real estate, and the erection and maintenance thereon of a building containing a Racket Court, Reading Rooms, Bowling Alley, and other rooms for the purpose of recreation and amusement of a like nature, and fixing the place of business of the Club in the City of Montreal.

The incorporation was filed in the Tutelle office, on the 2nd of May, 1889.

During the summer of 1889, there was a flurry of activity on Concord Street. F.M. David was having his new clubhouse and court built. The membership committee had been soliciting new members at an unprecedented rate and, by the time the club opened its doors for play in January 1890, there were over one hundred members.

With Lord Strathcona appointed as Honorary President, the club had become the place to be. The Molsons, the Allans, the MacDougalls, the Ross', the Cloustons, the Abbotts, and the Van Hornes – all became subscribers to the once again fashionable sporting club at its new location on Concord Street.

The *Montreal Daily Star* reported the club's official opening on January 16, 1890:

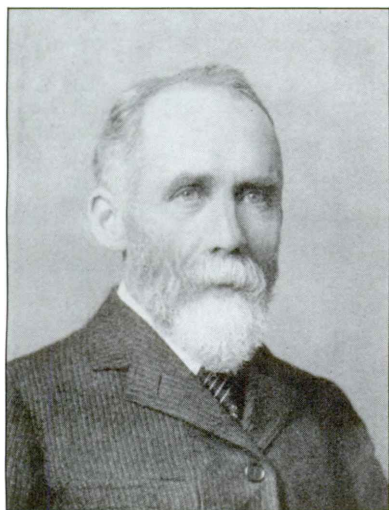
Opening of the Montreal Racket Club

The formal opening of the Montreal Racket Club on Concord Street took place yesterday afternoon. A large number of ladies and gentlemen was present. The Racket Court is a very fine one, being sixty-one and a half feet by thirty-two and a half, and is cemented and finished in the best manner. The court is a counterpart of the one at Lord's in England. The club rooms are large and handsome, and fitted with every convenience. Fine plunge and shower baths are attached. A very pleasant afternoon was spent, when refreshments were served.

Sir Donald A. Smith, Honourary President; E.S. Clouston, President; Henry Joseph, Vice-President; Committee: H. Abbott, Q.C., Alex Paterson, H.J. Joseph, T.D. Bell, C.G. Clouston, W.R. Miller, and A. Allan, Honourable Secretary-Treasurer.

Two weeks later, on January 28, 1890, the following extract from the first minute book of the Montreal Racket Club was recorded:

Proposed by Mr. Henry Joseph, seconded by Mr. Alex Paterson and carried, – that the President and Secretary be authorized to accept transfer of the Clubhouse property on Concord Street from Mr. F.M. David.



James Ross
Prominent Montreal clubman

(Opposite) The façade of the Montreal Racket Club before the addition of 1911



A final legal transaction of great importance in the club's early history took place on February 3, 1890. On that day, as documented in a deed before notary LaBadie, F.M. David sold both the land and the building to the Montreal Racket Club for \$272.44. Since neither plans nor financial records concerning the construction of the clubhouse and court have ever been located, it must be assumed that Florance David, possibly in conjunction with several other benefactors, financed the construction.

Whatever the case, rackets was back from the brink of disaster. In less than a year, the club had moved from the squalor of St. George Street to a new building which now housed the finest court in North America.

The exterior shell of the court had been built of stone; the walls and floors were cement. The interior walls were covered with a finishing coat of Bickley's famous mixture brought from England. The only variation in the construction of the court lay in its dimensions, the thinking being that a larger court would be more suitable for the four-handed game. This would prove to be an error.

THE FIRST DECADE 1890-1900

No records, minute books or financial statements for the newly-incorporated club exist today for the years up until 1894. However, a copy of the club's formal Constitution, By-Laws and Rules, dated 1892, was retrieved from the papers of Arthur Hills, club historian from the 1930's until his death in 1971.

Under Article III of the Constitution, it is stated that the capital stock of the club at incorporation amounted to \$15,000.00, divided into shares of \$25.00 each. The annual membership fees were set at \$12.00 for shareholders and \$15.00 for non-shareholders. It can be assumed that the fees did not change between 1889 and 1892.

By-laws which, by today's standards may be particularly amusing, appear in the 1892 Constitution.

According to Article XII, paragraphs 2 and 3, the Ladies Tennis Club was, for two half days each week, given access to the court where they played a game similar to the one previously described and played at the Quebec City Racket Club. Secondly,



*Archibald Allan
circa 1889*



the ladies were permitted to use the court for “Ladies Days” on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. We can only speculate that perhaps Florance David had had to make these concessions in order to negotiate that one small chunk of land from the Ladies Benevolent Society. After all, the club had paid only \$36.00 for the land.

Four members of the Ladies Tennis Club

Another significant by-law, specified in Article XII, paragraph 6, states: “No dogs allowed in the Club House.” The days of ratting were definitely over at the racket club.

By the mid-1890’s, inter-club matches were being arranged with the New York Racquet & Tennis Club. There were, as well, exhibition matches set up regularly between visiting English players and Albert Bridger, the Montreal professional since 1881. Important open tournaments were soon initiated by the club, the first being the Canadian Championship established in 1896. The bowling alley and billiard table were now booked on a regular basis. This was what the club had needed: an excellent court and a first-class clubhouse. Members easily settled into the comfortable routine of a lively rackets match, a plunge bath, and a few drinks around the fireplace with friends.

Montreal Racket Club.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

October 1st, 1892.

SIR DONALD A. SMITH, K.C.M.G., M.P., HONORARY PRESIDENT.

A. A. ALLAN PRESIDENT.

H. ABBOTT, Q. C. VICE-PRESIDENT.

FRANK F. ROLLAND HONORARY SECRETARY.

H. MONTAGU ALLAN.

F. C. HENSHAW.

A. E. TREVITHICK.

K. W. BLACKWELL.

A. E. ABBOTT.

F. E. MEREDITH.

Constitution and By-Laws

OF THE

MONTREAL RACKET CLUB.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

The Club shall be called the MONTREAL RACKET CLUB, and shall have its principal place of business in Montreal.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECT.

The objects of the Club are the erection and maintenance of a Racket Court and Club House, with Bowling Alleys, Billiard Room, Reading and other Rooms, for the purpose of recreation, amusement and instruction.

ARTICLE III.

The Capital Stock shall be Fifteen Thousand Dollars, subject to increase by by-law, divided into shares of Twenty-five dollars each, which shall be paid in cash upon subscription.

16

MEMBERS.

Small, E. A.

Thomas, F. W.

Torrance, W. F.

Toms, L. W.

Trevithick, A. E.

Whitney, J. E. M.

Wardlow, J. H.

Whitehead, E. A.

Yates, H. B.

MEMBERS.

15

Meredith, C.

Meredith, F. E.

Meredith, W. H.

Meredith, H. V.

Miller, W. R.

Monk, C. D.

Monk, J. G.

Morris, A. W., M.P.P.

Molson, H. M.

Macculloch, R.

McLennan, B.

McTier, A.

Nelles, R. Campbell

Ogilvie, A. T.

Paton, H.

Paterson, A.

Peck, J. H.

Reford, A. D.

Riley, J. J.

Rolland, F. F.

Ross, James

Ruttan, Dr. R. F.

Shaughnessy, T. G.

14

MEMBERS.

Hooper, G. R. 36 C

Holt, H. S. 20 S

Hope, C. G. 18 S

Hope, W. 1226

Howard, E. 16 S

Heneker, R. T. Can

Joseph, H. 16 S

Joseph, H. J. 12 E

Kinlock, Dr. J. A. 47 U

Laframboise, E. 20 N

Lamothe, C. New

Leslie, N. S. 410

Mann, D. D. Win

MacCallum, Dr. D. C. 45 U

Macdonald, C. de B. 26 N

MacInnes, W. R. Can

Mackenzie, A. A. Mer

McEachran, Dr. C. 6 U

McIntyre, J. M. 13 V

McIntyre, D., Jr. St.

McIntyre, W. C. 13 V

Maze, C. D. 180

May, F. 240

May, G. C. 240 McGill Street.

David, F. M.

Davis, L.

Davis, E. H.

Davis, M. B.

Davis, M. E.

Dobell, W. M.

Drummond, A. L.

Elmenhorst, W. R.

Farmer, G. A.

Fulton, E. M.

Galarneau, A.

Gillespie, G.

Gilmour, D.

Green, F. H.

Guy, H.

Guy, E. C. P.

Hamilton, G. W.

Hampson, R.

Hampson, H.

Hebden, R. Y.

Henshaw, F. C.

Holland, C.

Hooper, A. W. 36 Chaboillez Square.

List of Members.

Abbott, A. E. 55 St. Sulpice Street.

Abbott, H., Q. C. 11 Hospital Street.

Abbott, J. B. 11 Hospital Street.

Allan, A. E. 25 Common Street.

Allan, B. J. 25 Common Street.

Allan, A. A. 25 Common Street.

Allan, H. A. 25 Common Street.

Allan, H. M. 25 Common Street.

Angus, D. F. 240 Drummond Street.

Barnard, C. A. 10 St. James Street.

Bell, A. 15 Victoria Square.

Bell, T. D. 15 Victoria Square.

Benson, G. F. 14 St. Peter Street.

Blackwell, K. W. Conde St., Pt. St. Charles.

Buchanan, R. C. 180 St. Helen Street.

Buchanan, A. Bank of Montreal.

Caverhill, Geo. 89 St. Peter Street.

Campbell, Colin 17 St. John Street.

Campbell, C. C. 160 McGill Street.

Campbell, Dr. Lorne 308 Peel Street.

Clouston, C. G. 7 St. Sacrament Street.

Clouston, E. S. Bank of Montreal.

Clouston, W. S. Bank of Montreal.

Clouston, W. S. Bank of Montreal.

It was recorded in the 1894 racket club minute book, the first that could be located, that the directors discussed repairs. In a minute dated June 19:

. . . The question of accepting the marker's offer to putty the skylight was considered and the Honourable Secretary was authorized to enter into an arrangement if he sees fit, the consideration not to exceed \$ 20.00. Mr. Rolland [is] to explain to the marker that the work is done at his own risk.

Could this be an omen of things to come?

At the fall meetings of 1894, the committee discussed the Ladies Lawn Tennis Club, whereupon the following item was entered into the minutes of November 30, 1894:

. . . The Secretary was instructed to write to the Secretary of the Ladies Lawn Tennis Club about the marks on the walls from the balls, also to speak to Reed [caretaker] about the floor.

One year later, it is stated in the minutes of November 25, 1895:

Resolved that in answer to their request, the Ladies Lawn Tennis Club be allocated the use of the Court [during the winter] on the same terms as last year from 9 till 12:30 p.m. on Mondays, Fridays until further notice for the sum of \$50.00.

By the 1895-96 season, activity at the club had increased considerably, prompting the directors to initiate the recording of all matches in an official club match book. It was further resolved that awards be established for the winners of the annual competitions. It was determined that the winner of the Club Handicap would be awarded an amount equivalent to the annual membership fee; the Senior Champion, an amount equal to the membership fee plus an additional donation from the club, to equal \$20.00; and the Junior Champion, a pewter tankard.

Soon after the directors' decision had been reached on the matter of the awards, it was recorded as follows:

(Opposite) The 1892 lists of shareholders and members. Many shareholders of the new club were not playing members.

Resolved that the Secretary sees the Auditor in the matter of his fee, which seems in the opinion of the meeting, rather high.

Once again, this would prove to be an omen of things to come.

It was in December of 1895 that the idea was tabled to initiate an Amateur Canadian Championship. Messrs. F.F. Rolland and A.D. MacTier solicited subscriptions to purchase a cup while another committee prepared a circular to announce the event. Neither the scores, nor any account of the 1896 match were recorded; however, it is fitting that the first man to win both the Amateur Canadian Championship and the annual Club Championship in the same year was the club's finest player – Francis Furness Rolland.

In 1896, the club's by-laws were rewritten to include rules and regulations governing these annual Club Championship and Amateur Canadian Championship tournaments.

The circular prepared for the first Canadian Championship

Montreal Racket Club,
No. 16 CONCORD STREET.

MONTREAL, 31st January, 1896.

AN ANNUAL TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD IN THE COURT OF THE MONTREAL RACKET CLUB FOR THE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP OF CANADA, AND FOR A CUP WHICH THE CLUB OFFERS TO THE CHAMPION.

RULES.
1st. The Tournament will be open to all amateurs and the winner of each year's Tournament to hold the Championship for that year only.
2nd. The Tournament will be held in the Court of the Montreal Racket Club on the dates to be fixed by the directors of the Club for that year.
3rd. The entrance fee will be five dollars (\$5) which must accompany each entry.
4th. The matches will be the best of five games, and each player must play every other player.
5th. The games will be governed by the rules of "Prince's Club."
6th. The Championship Cup will be held each year by the Club whose member wins that year's Championship, and that Club will be responsible to the Montreal Racket Club for the safe-keeping of the Cup while in its possession, and for its return to the Montreal Racket Club one week before the date fixed for the next Tournament.
7th. The Champion's name and the date he wins it, will be inscribed each year on the cup.
8th. The Club offers in addition a separate cup to the Champion of each year to be retained as his personal property, and his name and the date he wins the Championship will be inscribed on it.

DIRECTIONS FOR TOURNAMENT. 1896.
This year's Tournament has been fixed for the week commencing Monday, 2nd March.
Entries will close 22nd February next, and must be sent to G. A. FARMER, Hon. Secretary, addressed to the Club House, Montreal.
During the fortnight immediately preceding this Tournament, the Court will be open for practice for those who intend competing, subject to such arrangements as the directors of the Club may make.
By order,
G. A. FARMER,
Hon. Sec. M. R. Club.

Another milestone of 1896 was the tabling of the first set of financial statements at a meeting held on October 19, 1896. The committee which met after this meeting authorized the marker to engage the services of a boy assistant at a monthly salary of \$2.00. The committee also arranged for cold lunches to be served to the members at a maximum charge of \$0.35.

The year 1897 was another exciting one; matches became international. George Standing, formerly of England and now the professional at the New York Racquet & Tennis Club, challenged Englishman Peter Latham, the current World double-Champion of Rackets and Tennis. This would be the first time since the World Championship was established in 1820 that the tournament would be played on a court outside of England.

The match was set for the Queen's Club in London on October 16 with the second leg scheduled to be played in New York on November 27. The stake for this match was £2000, an extremely rich prize at the time. Six seats were reserved at the New York match for the members of the Montreal club. Latham easily retained his world title over Standing with a score of eight to four in games.

Meanwhile, the president of the Montreal Racket Club, who had travelled to New York for the championship, made inquiries as to whether Standing and Latham would be interested in playing an exhibition match in the Montreal court after their tournament. Both agreed, and the dates of December 7-8 were scheduled. Mr. Percy Ashworth, former Amateur Champion of England, also came to Montreal and made up a fourth with the Montreal professional, Albert Bridger. Seats for the matches were offered to members of both the New York club and the Quebec City Racket Club.

It was never recorded who played with whom or the scores of the matches; however, it must have been a success. The reported excess of receipts over expenditures amounted to \$47.50.

In 1898, play was at a record high, prompting a special meeting of the Match and Handicap Committee. It was later recorded in the minutes of March 26, 1899 that:

. . . The Chairman pointed out that as so many entries had been received for the Club Championship, it made it quite impossible for each entry to play every other and finish the series



Montreal, Oct. 12, 1896.

*The Annual General Meeting
of the Shareholders of the Montreal
Racket Club will be held at the Club
House, 16 Concord St., on Monday,
October 19, 1896, at 5.30 p.m.*

G. A. FARMER,
Hon. Secretary.

Annual Statement, Montreal Racket Club.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE for Year ended 30th September, 1896.

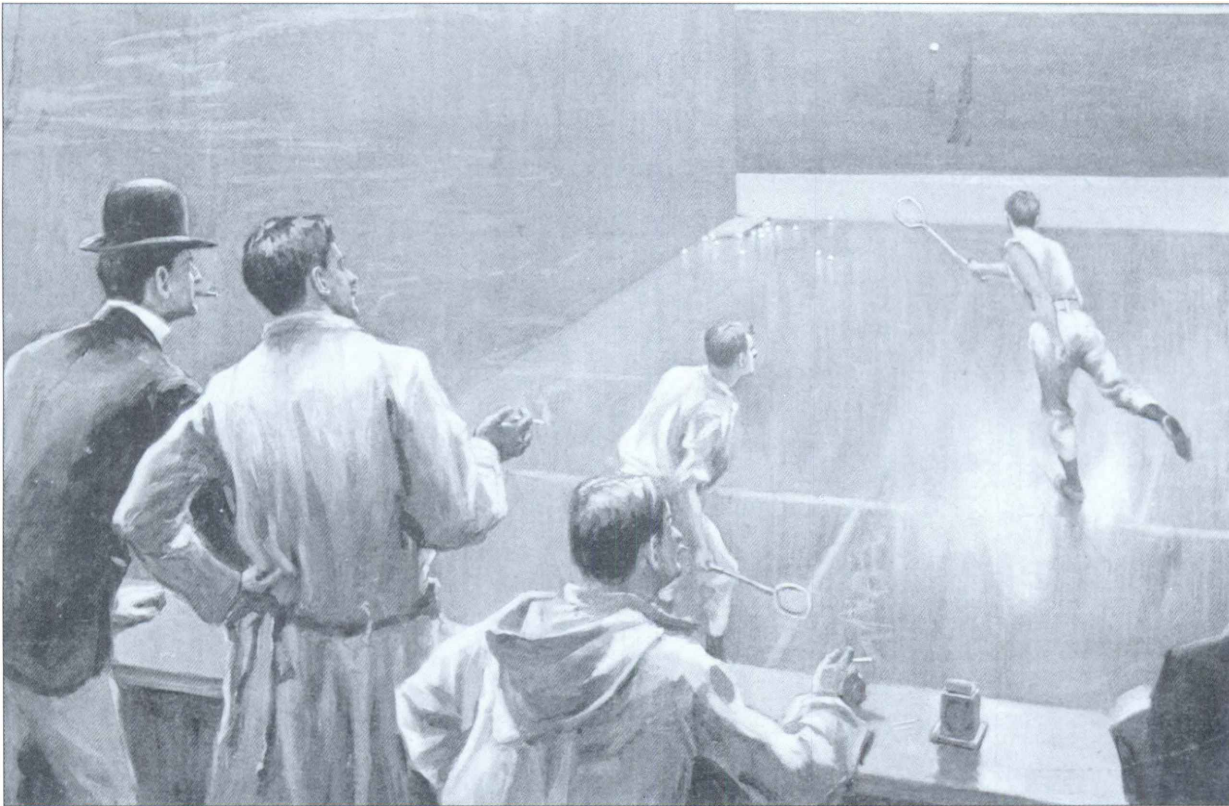
EXPENDITURE.			REVENUE.		
	1894-5	1895-6		1894-5	1895-6
To Repairs	\$208 08	\$ 370 07	By Lockers	\$ 48 00	\$ 54 00
" Taxes	185 21	174 56	" Ladies' Tennis Club	50 00	50 00
" Stationery	46 00	43 38	" Entrance Fees	75 00	100 00
" Fuel and Light	195 91	194 32	" Competition Fees	64 50	69 50
" Interest on Mortgage	440 00	440 00	" Interest on Account	5 95	7 30
" Insurance	21 16	27 50	" Subscriptions	1,254 00	1,278 00
" Expenses	141 29	116 43	" Games	403 00	514 90
" Salaries	585 00	490 00	" Fines	2 00	1 00
" Refreshments	88 89	137 15	" Refreshments	125 55	173 00
" Telephone	53 00	53 10			
" Prizes	49 15	52 00			
" Surplus to Establishment Account	10 86	149 19			
		\$2,247 70			\$2,247 70

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES as at September 30th, 1896.

ASSETS		LIABILITIES.	
Building	\$18,845 28	Stock	\$11 550 00
Furniture	660 02	Mortgage	8,000 00
CAPITAL ASSETS	\$19,505 30	CAPITAL LIABILITIES	\$19,550 00
Insurance	\$ 51 00	Taxes	\$ 147 00
Cash	1 70	Interest on Mortgage	36 66
Stock	10 00	Salaries	20 00
Members' Accounts	59 90	Prizes	32 00
CURRENT ASSETS	122 60	CURRENT LIABILITIES	235 66
ESTABLISHMENT ACCOUNT (Deficit)	157 76		
	\$19,785 66		\$19,785 66

Audited and verified,
Montreal, 10th October, 1896,
GEO. DURNFORD.

G. A. FARMER,
Honorary Secretary.



within the time limit. It was decided to play matches off under the Bagnal-Wilde System and the Secretary was instructed to send out notices to that effect.

*Action at the
American Championship*

Also in 1898, F.F. Rolland, playing some of the best rackets of his career, travelled to the United States to compete in the American Championship. This coveted title was captured by Rolland in a sensational match with Quincy Shaw. The scores were 15-7, 11-15, 3-15, 17-15, 15-11. Thus, Rolland became the first Canadian to win the prestigious American trophy, a feat not repeated by a Canadian until David McLernon won the American Championship in 1981.

In 1898, the club suffered its first deficit – a staggering \$1.76. This was yet another omen of things to come.

Relations with the military were still strong at the racket club. During a meeting in December 1898, as noted in the minutes:

. . . Letters were read from Secretaries of the Governor-General, General Lord Seymour and General Hutton, also from the various A.D.C.'s, thanking the President and Directors for extending to them the privileges of the Club.

In 1899, after playing on the oversized rackets court for some nine years, it was resolved by the committee that:

. . . Messrs. Rolland, Gilmour and MacTier form a special committee to report to the Directors on the reconstruction or rebuilding of the Court, making it a standard size of 30' X 60'. The sum of \$50.00 was placed at their disposal.

A meeting was held in March, and by May 1899, the committee had presented its findings:

. . . Mr. Rolland was present on behalf of the Court Committee and reported [that the] cost totalled up to \$2,426.00 and \$50.00 for architects fees. The Directors, while heartily concurring with the plans and appreciating the work done by the sub-committee, felt that time was needed to consider this question.

It would take almost twelve years to deliberate on this issue and have the court size corrected.

St. James Street, Montreal, circa 1898, Canada's financial capital. Many Montreal Racket Club members had offices here.

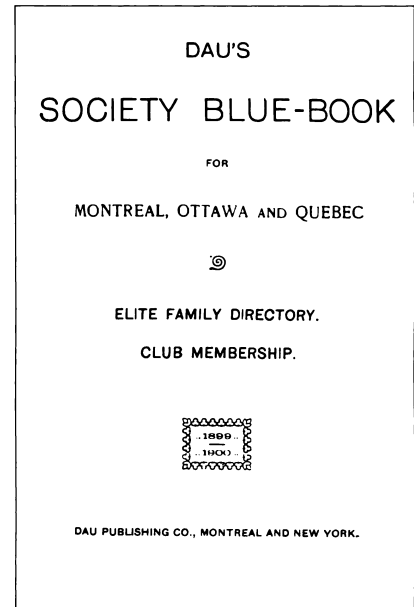


At the close of the century, both the Montreal club and the sport were flourishing; a strong interest in rackets had gradually moved to the United States where courts had been constructed in the cities of Philadelphia and Chicago. Private courts were built on the New Jersey estates of Eugene Higgins and Jay Gould, and outside of New York City, Tuxedo Park soon followed with a court built in the early 1900's. Detroit and Boston formed clubs shortly thereafter. Inter-city tournaments were soon organized to complement the already-busy schedule of championship tournaments, and Philadelphia, in 1899, inaugurated the U.S. Amateur Doubles Championship.

THE CLUB ENTERS THE TWENTIETH CENTURY 1900 – 1918

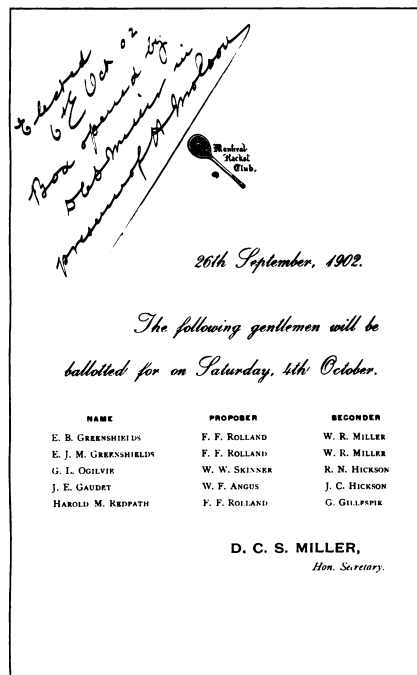
By the beginning of the century, play at the club had reached an all-time high. It is recorded in the annual financial statements that 5,230 matches were played in 1900, representing a 30% increase over the number of games played five years previously. The tournament schedule now included a Senior Championship, Junior Championship, Intermediate Championship, Handicap Doubles, Open Handicap, and the Canadian Championship.

Winter play was so active that the committee was compelled to hire Smith, the golf professional at the Outremont Golf Club, to assist in marking. He was paid at a rate of \$1.00 per day.



The Montreal Racket Club and its membership were listed in this Blue Book

Comparison of Games Played.						
	1894-5	1895-6	1896-7	1897-8	1898-9	1899-1900
October	339	240	447	258	560	286
November	448	403	565	473	674	527
December.....	475	407	595	691	630	611
January.....	430	645	613	640	686	514
February.....	420	616	741	484	565	541
March.....	627	655	818	895	764	752
April.....	552	730	754	689	612	815
May.....	243	507	492	362	246	462
June	187	266	301	153	50	279
July.....	...	231	87	43	18	208
August.....	145	165	...	108	25	24
September	160	284	189	326	173	211
	4026	5149	5602	5162	5003	5230
Court closed.....					July 18	Aug. 10
Court opened.....					Aug. 19	Sept. 1



A membership ballot from 1902

Frank Rolland dominated the game in 1900. While he had had no opposition from Applegath in the Senior Championship, beating him 15-4, 15-11, 15-8, Rolland would not be so fortunate in the Canadian Championship. Eustace Miles, representing the Queen's Club, had recently won the Amateur Tennis Championship of England. He had then decided to enter the North American Championships.

When he arrived in New York, Miles proceeded to win both the U.S. Amateur Singles Rackets Championship and the U.S. Amateur Singles Tennis Championship. Continuing the tour, he arrived in Montreal on March 7, 1900 and thrashed Rolland in three games straight. The scores were 15-4, 15-5, 15-7.

It was clear that the English players were far superior to their North American counterparts. Rackets skills were developed in the English schools where boys would learn the finer points of the game while still in their teens. In Montreal, with only one court, young men would generally not take up the game until their mid- to late-twenties. Therein lay the disadvantage.

Eustace Miles had a second reason for touring North America in 1900. His research on the American and Canadian game was subsequently used in his book published in 1903 under the title, *Rackets, Tennis & Squash*. This three hundred page treatise on racket sports provides exhaustive detail on every facet of these games.

Perhaps the most amusing advice which he offers the reader appears in his miscellaneous notes. Here, he describes the three cardinal sins which all rackets players should astutely avoid:

Fatness – Fatness beyond a certain degree is a positive disadvantage.

Staleness – A usual remedy for staleness is champagne and a large meal, or if preferable, to drop meals altogether.

Constipation – It has been said that nine-tenths of the English people are constipated and that a massage of the colon is useful. Other remedies include drinking scalding hot water in the morning, and cold water pourings down the spine.



Eustace Miles (left) with Peter Latham. Both players were double rackets and tennis champions.

Few story-tellers would have been called upon at the President's Lunch that year after Eustace Miles stood up to discuss his book.

Rolland was later defeated for the second time that year, this time by A.E. Abbott, in the Open Handicap where the scores were 17-16, 15-11, 9-15, 15-13. Rolland had given Abbott five points per game. In spite of this poor year, the thirty-eight year old veteran, Rolland, would go on to win the Canadian Championship seven of the next twelve years.

Other significant developments of 1900 included the forming of a committee to look into the matter of building a squash court for the club. Squash had become a popular adjunct to rackets. The game had been devised by young English lads who, while waiting their turns outside the rackets courts of their schools, would knock the rackets balls against the outer walls of the courts. Some enterprising instructor had introduced a softer ball

– one that was squashy – and a shorter racket. Downsized courts measuring approximately twenty feet by forty feet were hastily built against the perimeter of the rackets court. The game caught on and soon the sport was introduced to North American clubs.

Recognizing the members' interest in the sport, the issue of constructing squash courts was put before the committee in 1903, and again, in 1904. The minutes of December 1, 1903 state that:

. . . The President reports that he wrote the Ladies Benevolent Society asking if they would be willing to lease a piece of land adjoining the Club property for the purpose of erecting Squash Courts, and received an answer saying same would be laid before the management and a reply given later,

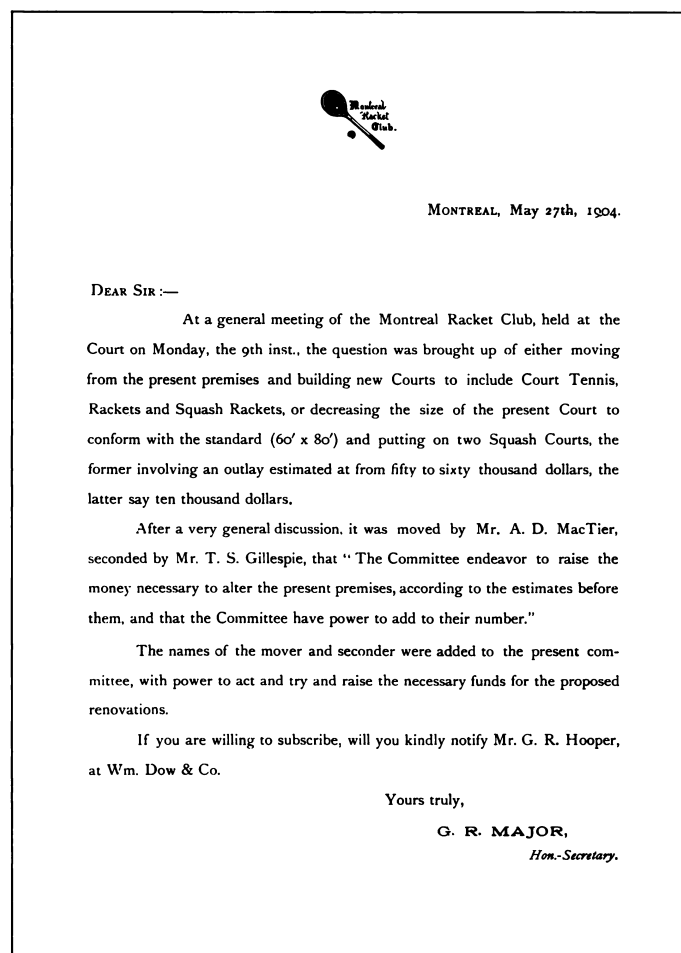
while the January 19, 1904 minutes read:

Capital fund campaigns started early in the twentieth century

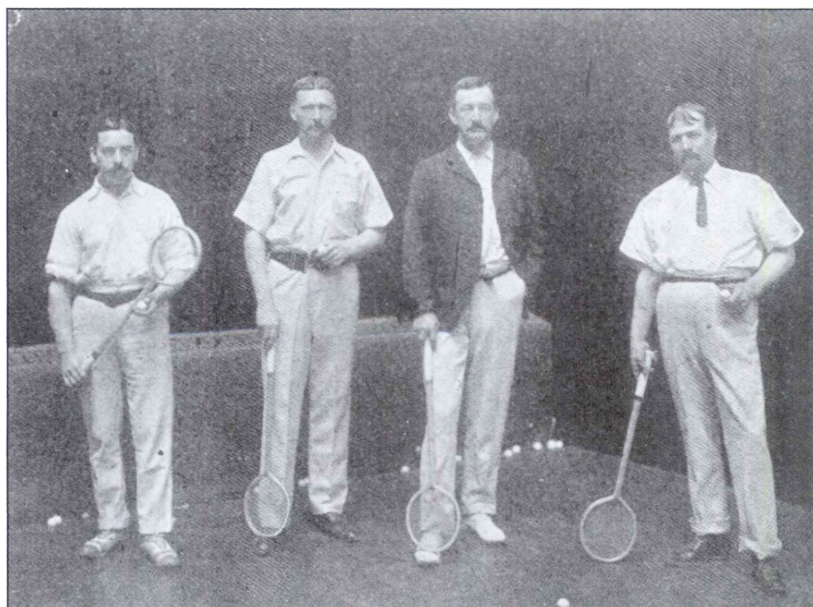
(Opposite top) F.W. Ashe, President in 1906

(Opposite centre) Four-handed action

(Opposite bottom) (Left to right) Arthur Stevens, the new professional, F.F. Rolland, W. Hope, and Albert Bridger, retired professional



1906



Montreal Racket Club.

March 31st, 1906.

Albert Bridger, the marker, is leaving the Club at the end of April, after twenty years faithful service, on account of his injured eyesight.

The Directors being under the impression that many, either past or present, members would be glad to contribute towards getting up a purse for him, have decided to issue this circular, in order to afford an opportunity to those who may so desire.

Contributions may be sent to G. A. Farmer, Bank of Montreal, Montreal, who will acknowledge them.

T. S. GILLESPIE,
Hon.-Secy.

THE MONTREAL RACKET CLUB.

On this page are published two photographs of an old and interesting institution known as the Montreal Racket Club. The history of this club was published some time ago in two volumes of "Sports of America"; but, generally speaking, Montrealers are not familiar with it.

The Club recently parted with its professional marker, "Albert" Bridger, who was the marker for the Club for twenty years, and who left on account of an injury to his eye. In his day, he was one of the best professional exponents of the game of rackets, and certainly the player with the prettiest style. It was with great regret that the Montreal Racket Club parted with his services. A handsome money testimonial was given him prior to his departure, as a small expression of the esteem in which he is held by the members of the Club.

The new marker, Mr. Arthur Stevens, comes from Princess Club, London. His play is very much appreciated by the members.

. . . Plans for alterations to the building, comprising the reduction of the Court and the building of two Squash Courts were laid on the table; also letters from Bickley's, Lilly Bridge Road, London, quoting cost.

Nothing was resolved in 1904, with perhaps the notable exception that, on December 14:

. . . The question of taking out the Urinal was discussed and it was decided to have it removed and the pipes plugged in a sanitary manner.

The committee had, by now, considered moving to a new location to accommodate the proposed changes and additions. Offers to purchase the Concord Street property followed.

By early 1905, amid rumours that the Ladies Tennis Club was interested in taking over the club, the committee met and appointed Messrs. Hooper, McKim, and Gillespie to develop a plan for the building of a new clubhouse. The facility was to contain an up-to-date rackets court, at least four squash courts, and provide room for a court tennis court.

*The Montreal home of club member,
Hugh Paton*



Still nothing happened for yet another four years, despite a minute entry in May 1909 indicating that further offers on the Concord Street property had been received. While the directors were not really inclined to sell, they let it be known that an offer of \$20,000 would be considered.

An important decision made in 1909 by the committee was to establish an Honorary Members roll. Any gentleman who had been a member for thirty-five years would receive this distinction. The first member so honoured was Mr. G.A. Farmer who had joined the club on St. George Street in the late 1870's. The traditional Honorary Members' Dinner, where an enthusiastic rendition of the song "Down on the Farm" is delivered off-key to the inductees, has become one of the highlights of the fall social calendar.

The only other excitement in 1909 occurred during an emergency meeting in July when it was reported that:

. . . The marker Arthur Stevens, having become insane, the Secretary reported what steps had been taken to place him in the Protestant Hospital for Insane, Verdun. The Secretary's action was approved.

The marker's wife being in England, it was resolved to close the Court for the present and advertise for a caretaker.

The following cable was sent to [club director] Mr. R.E. MacDougall, at present in England: "Stevens insane; Recovery doubtful; Notify his father at Harrow; Get applications for new marker for September."

In September of 1909, the club received an inquiry from Fred Hawes, a young man who was then working at the Randolph Tennis & Racket Club at Boston's Harvard University, regarding the possibility of his coming to Montreal to work as the club's professional. He was invited to meet with the directors in October and was hired two weeks later, having been offered a one-year contract with a three-year club option for renewal.

Hawes was hired at a salary of £100 per annum and was also permitted the profit on the sale of rackets and clothing plus a percentage on the sale of refreshments. This last perquisite would prove to be an error as he soon developed a taste for



*Hugh Paton
Donated the Paton Trophy
for the Canadian Doubles
Championship*

the members' whisky. Hawes also was given an assistant who was paid \$2.00 per week.

In 1910, a full twenty-one years after F.M. David had built the oversized court, it would finally be corrected. The committee met first on May 19, 1910, and then again in June, to authorize both the plans and the cost of these renovations.

It is recorded in the minutes that:

. . . Plans and specifications from H. Stone, Architect, were submitted for rebuilding the Court, amounting as follows:

Masonry	\$ 3,819.00
Enlargement of Skylight	\$ 650.00
Alterations to lavatory & bathing arrangements	\$ 500.00
Cementing of walls & floor of Court	\$ 3,750.00
Alterations to heating	\$ 100.00
New Door to Court	\$ 50.00
	\$ 8,869.00
Architect's fee	\$ 375.00
	\$ 9,244.00

In June 1910, the building contracts were awarded. Construction could begin.

It was also decided at this time to enlarge the clubhouse and install squash courts. On November 23, 1910, the club acquired additional property to accommodate these new courts. Messrs. Ross and Molson, acting on the club's behalf, purchased from Mrs. Thomas Sonne the adjoining house which lay to the east. The purchase price amounted to \$8,500.00, of which \$2,500.00 was paid in cash upon transfer of the deed. The remaining \$6,000.00 was secured by a mortgage with an interest rate of 5 1/2% repayable in five years.

The following July, a contract was awarded to John Wighton for the building of two squash courts at a price of \$9,690.00. Due to limited funding, the secretary agreed to write to Lord



Early view of the Ritz, future site of memorable championship dances



Strathcona, the club's Honorary President, with a view to having him subscribe to new stock. Lord Strathcona later contributed \$1,000.00 for the construction of the new squash courts.

Enjoying a newly-designed clubhouse, a regulation size rackets court, and two new squash courts, the committee then decided that a valet and cook were needed to supply the members with hot meals. Horace Vale and his wife were hired for \$40.00 per month and advised that, if their services proved to be satisfactory, they would be allowed to move into the third-floor apartment. The employment of this couple launched a tradition of live-in help which has survived to this day.

Membership was booming now that the squash courts had been opened. According to the minutes of November 1912:

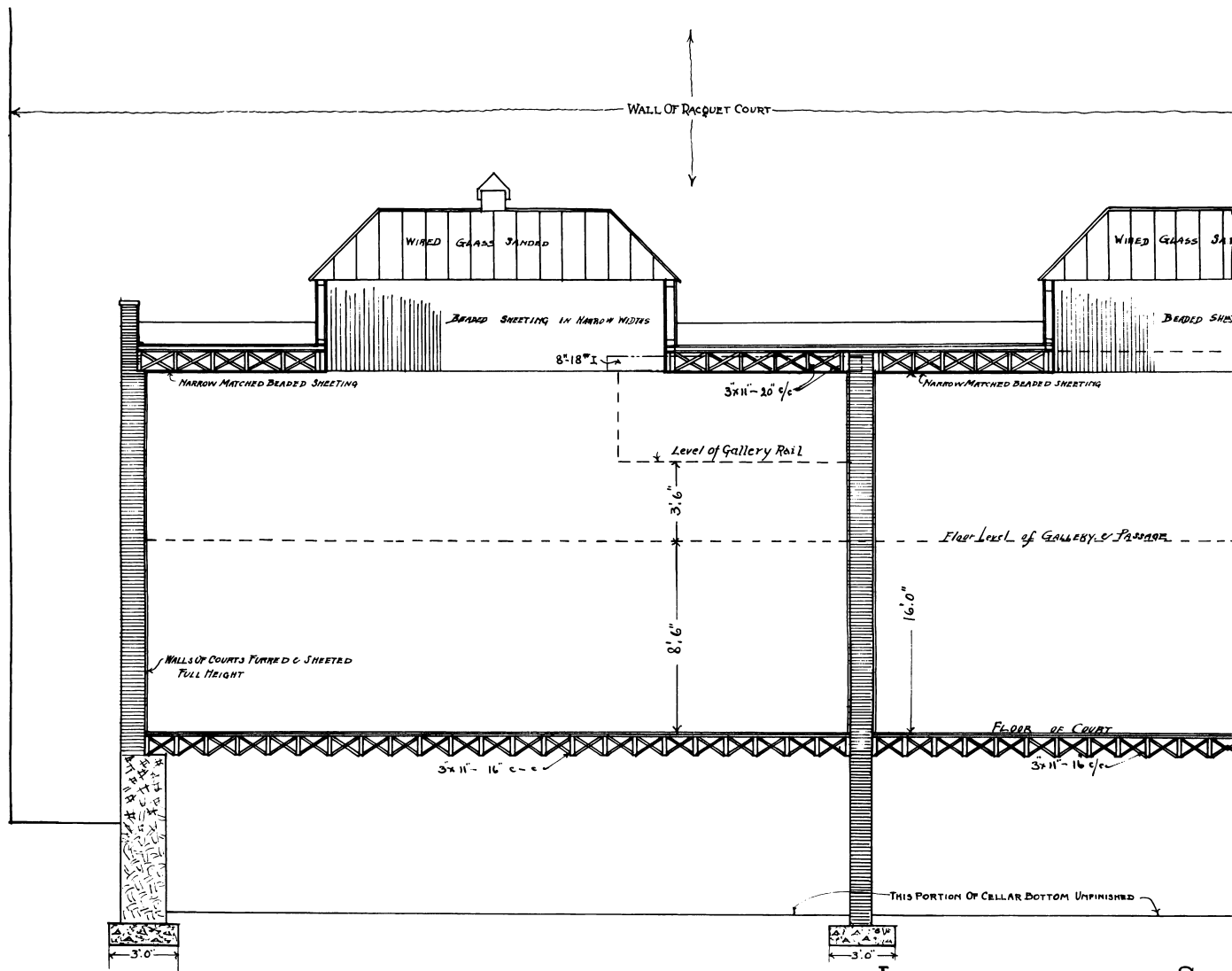
. . . The Secretary reported that there were three vacancies in the residence list, and it was decided to admit three new members from the waiting list and to limit the active membership to 160.

A 1912 cricket match between members of the Montreal Polo Club and the Montreal Racket Club

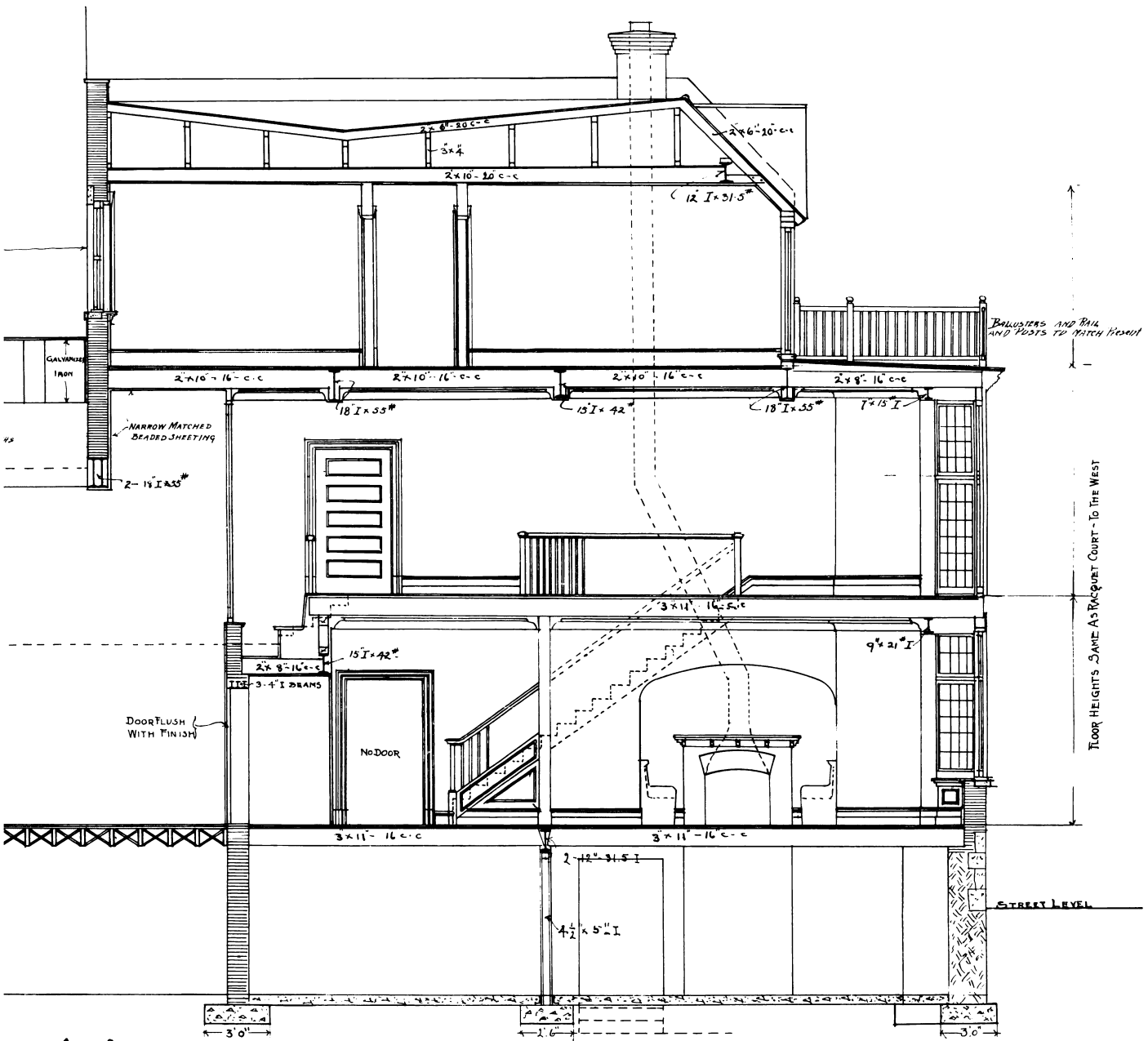
John Wright

PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE
MONTREAL RACQUET COURT CONCORD ST
H.C. STONE - ARCHITECT
SCALE $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'-0"$

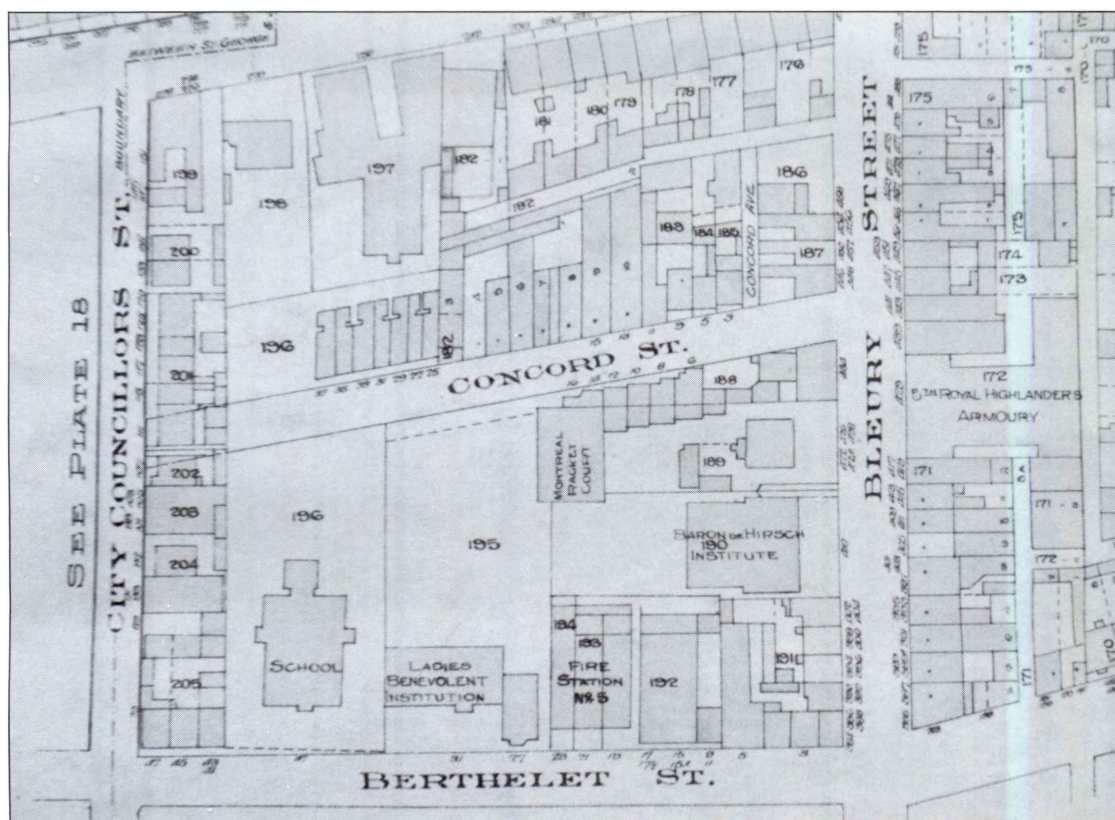
DRAWING No. 5



LONGITUDINAL SECTION



A-A



The Montreal Racket Club and the Black Watch Armoury, noted on this 1912 map, are the only buildings still standing

It was further recorded that “there were thirty-five members on the Club waiting list”.

Earlier that year, at their January 1912 meeting, the committee tabled a request from the Ladies Squash Club. Playing privileges were subsequently granted to the ladies on certain conditions as stated in the minutes:

- Membership was to be limited to twenty-five.
- \$100 annually to be paid to this Club.
- Play to be confined to Monday and Friday mornings from 9 until 12.
- Should a holiday fall on a Monday or Friday, the Ladies Squash Club to have no privilege to play on such holiday.
- The above days subject to cancellation or alteration on written notice by the Secretary of the Montreal Racket Club.

Another historic development in the evolution of squash occurred in February 1912. The committee decided that the first Canadian Squash Championship was to be held at the Concord Street clubhouse. Henry Birks & Sons was commissioned to design the silver cup known as the Montreal Racket Club Trophy.

A large, ornate silver trophy cup with two handles, featuring intricate engravings and a decorative base. The cup is highly detailed with scrollwork and a central emblem on the front. The base is dark and has a decorative, scalloped edge. The trophy is set against a dark, textured background.

Montreal Racket Club
Singles Squash Rackets Championship of Canada
Challenge Cup

On March 20, the tournament commenced. The draw consisted of ten players in the preliminary round, all of whom were Montreal Racket Club members. The first Canadian Squash Champion was Kenneth Molson who defeated Phil MacKenzie by the scores of 12-15, 15-5, 15-12, 15-9.

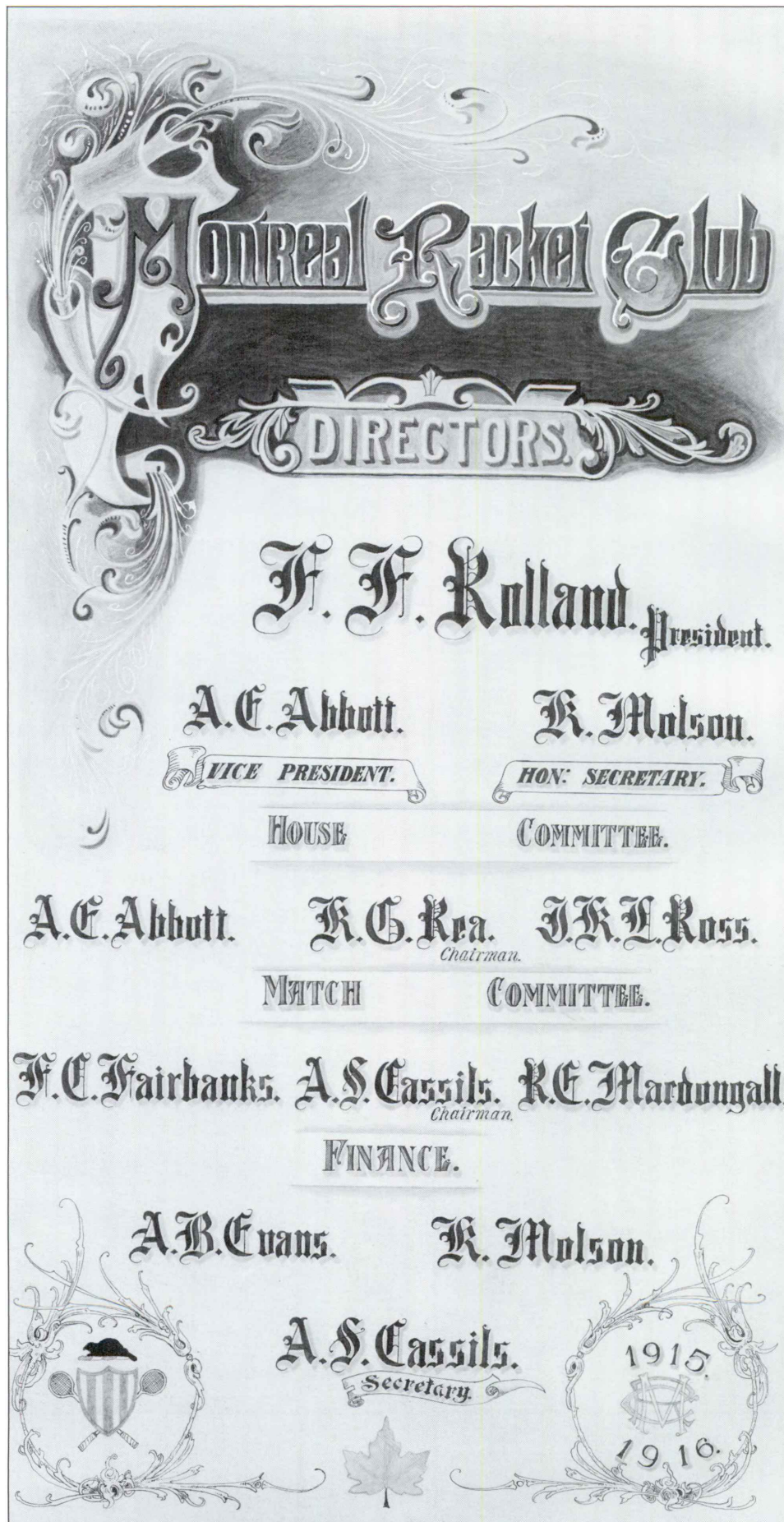
Since there was no governing body in Canada for squash, the sport conformed to the rules set by the United States Squash Racquet Association in 1904. These early rules were almost identical to those of rackets: scoring was to fifteen points, points could only be scored by the server, and two serves were allowed.

One year later, the Squash Championship was, once again, held at the Concord Street court. This year, however, visitors had travelled from Toronto to play in the tournament, Toronto and Hamilton now enjoying their own courts. The Toronto team was led by a young railwayman named Arthur J. Hills who later turned to rackets, becoming president and club historian to the Montreal Racket Club. Hills reached the finals, but lost to Phil MacKenzie by the scores of 18-17, 8-15, 10-15, 15-12, 15-11.

During the 1913 season, the first annual Closing Dinner was held. On this evening, tournament prizes were awarded and many memorable stories were recounted. This dinner, held in the oak-panelled dining room, would prove to be the start of a lively, seventy-five year tradition at the Concord Street court.

*"Celebrating the Season"
The original print is entitled
"Oxford Transports or Albanians
doing Penance for Past Offenses".*





With war looming and many of the younger members looking forward to enlisting, the bowling alleys in the basement were converted into a rifle range. Although the president had donated a silver cup for marksmanship, there is still clear evidence of stray bullet holes in the walls. In 1915, the shooting trophy was awarded to H.C. Morgan who won the competition with a score of 468 out of a possible 500.

While the names of those racket club members who enlisted to fight in World War I were never recorded, an honour roll dedicated to those killed in the conflict has been inscribed on a panel in the dining room.

In 1916, both Hawes, the professional, and Vale, the steward, approached the committee, requesting that they be released from the club's service to go overseas. The directors granted their leave and guaranteed that their positions would be restored upon their return from the war, providing they were capable of working. The club also allowed their families to stay in the third-floor apartments.

During the war years, the club was much less active. No championship matches were held, and the number of rackets games dwindled from an average of some 4,000 games per year to only 1,000.

In 1918, as the war came to a close, rationing was severe. The possibility of closing the club due to the government's coal restrictions was discussed, but it was decided that it would not be necessary to do so. It was unanimously agreed, however, that any member who had served in the war, and was disabled in such a way as to make it impossible for him to use the club, would be appointed as an Honorary Member. Captain H.D. Kingstone was the first member to be granted this distinction.



*Hugh A. Allan
One of the members killed
in the Great War*



RACKETS BETWEEN THE WARS

1918 – 1939

Following the First World War, major tournaments resumed at the club. It was impressive to see Frank Rolland, now well over fifty years old, competing with twenty-year-old war veterans. In 1919, however, Rolland lost to the young Angus Cassils in the Annual Handicap by a score of three games to two. The two players were matched at even, and the final scores indicate a classic struggle: 9-15, 15-8, 12-15, 18-15, 18-15. In the same year, Rolland and his partner, A.E. Abbott, lost a second marathon match to two youngsters, Cassils and Molson, in the Club Doubles tournament, losing by the scores of 17-14, 9-15, 17-14, 17-18, 15-12.

By 1920, there was so much demand for court time that the committee authorized the installation of a lighting system in the rackets court so that members could play in the evenings. The cost of the installation amounted to \$2,050.00. It was further voted that a fee of \$0.25 per half hour, or \$0.50 per hour, would be charged to the players for the lighting. The only other excitement that year occurred when the marker's assistant smashed his finger in the rackets court door. While the extent of his injury was not recorded, the club agreed to pay his doctor's bills.

In one of the monthly meetings of 1920, balls were discussed. It was decided that a ball with a hole in it should be used for all tournaments. Regrettably, no traces of this unique sphere have ever been found.

Two important trophies were donated to the club in the early 1920's. The first was the Percival Molson Squash Championship Trophy. It was donated by the Molson family in 1919 in memory of Percival Molson who was killed in action during the First World War. The second, a gift from long time club member, Hugh Paton, was first awarded in 1921 to the winners of the Canadian Doubles Rackets Championship.

The Canadian Championship was quickly attracting international players, and by 1921, it was not unusual to find several Americans and a handful of Englishmen entered in the competition. During this decade, Americans Clarence Pell and Arthur Mortimer completely dominated the tournament. The only Canadian to win the championship was Angus Cassils



*Captain Percival Talbot Molson
Seriously wounded, he
received the Military Cross.
He returned to the front and
was killed in 1917.*



*(Above) C.C. Pell from New York
One of the greatest players
of the game*



*(Right) C.C. Pell Jr. sitting at
the front of the sleigh in the
early 1920's. He is accompanied
by his parents and the MacDougalls.*

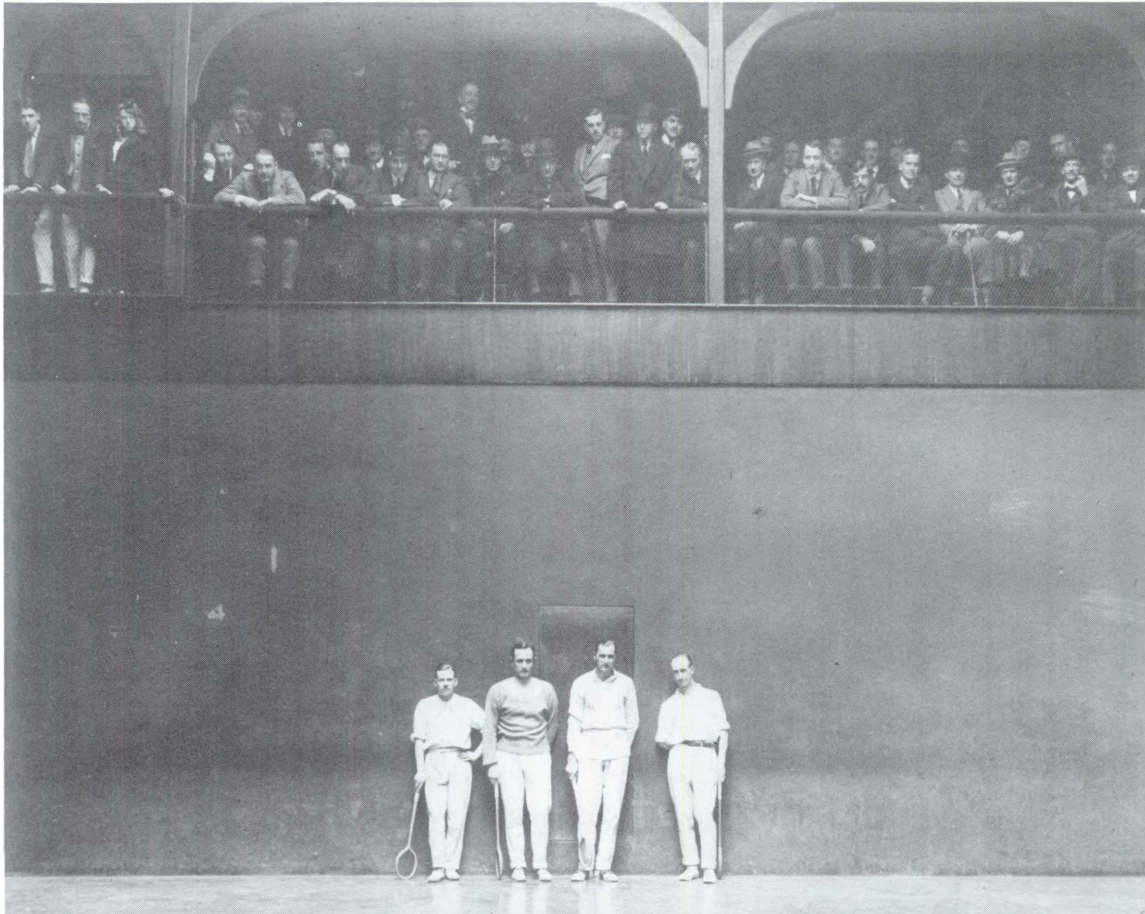
who, in 1929, beat fellow Montrealer, "Choppy" Dobell. The year of the crash had kept the visitors at home – temporarily.

The rackets court and two squash courts were consistently booked during the 1920's. The number of rackets games played in 1922 hit a record high of 10,008 while the number of squash games soared to over 4,500.

Activity became so heated that the directors unanimously agreed to apply for a full liquor licence, at an annual cost of \$260.00, to provide the members with beer, wine, whisky, and gin. Profits on the refreshments spiralled from \$323.51 in 1922 to \$2,966.30 by 1929. This new development did not augur well for Fred Hawes, the professional. He was finally instructed to pack his belongings since his persistent nipping at the members' private stock could no longer be tolerated.

Teddy Green, the squash professional from the Hamilton club, was hired in 1925 for a period of six months to replace Hawes. He was paid a salary of \$100.00 per month.

**THE AMATEUR RACKET CHAMPIONSHIP OF CANADA.
MONTREAL RACKET CLUB - FEBRUARY 4TH. 1922.**



Mr. A.S. Cassils. Mr. S.G. Mortimer.
Mr. C.C. Pell. Mr. A. Wilson.

BETWEEN C.C. PELL & S.G. MORTIMER And A.S. CASSILS & A. WILSON.
(Racket & Tennis Club New York.) (Montreal Racket Club.)

Won By Messrs. C.C. Pell and S.G. Mortimer.

Score As Follows ~ Pell And Mortimer 15-10, 17-14, 15-4, 15-13.



*J.W. McConnell
Montreal financier and
racket club member*

Meanwhile, the Canadian Squash Association had distributed its official regulations governing court dimensions. The Montreal Racket Club, one of three founding members of the Association, conformed with these new regulations in 1923 by lowering the height of the telltales at the front of the squash courts to seventeen inches. The original height is unknown.

During the same year, the committee voted to deed the Montreal Racket Club Trophy, awarded for the Canadian Squash Championship, to the trustees of the recently-formed squash association. This trophy, at last check, was missing and presumed to be gracing the mantelpiece of a Canadian Squash Champion.

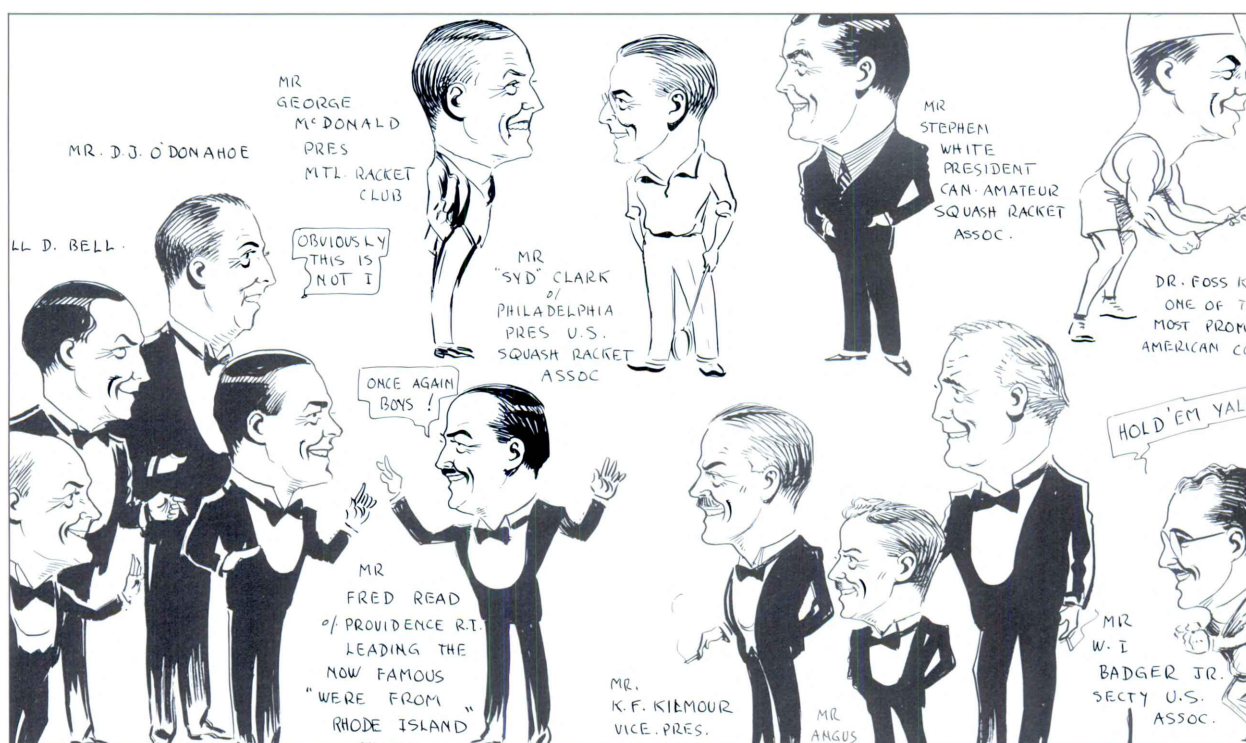
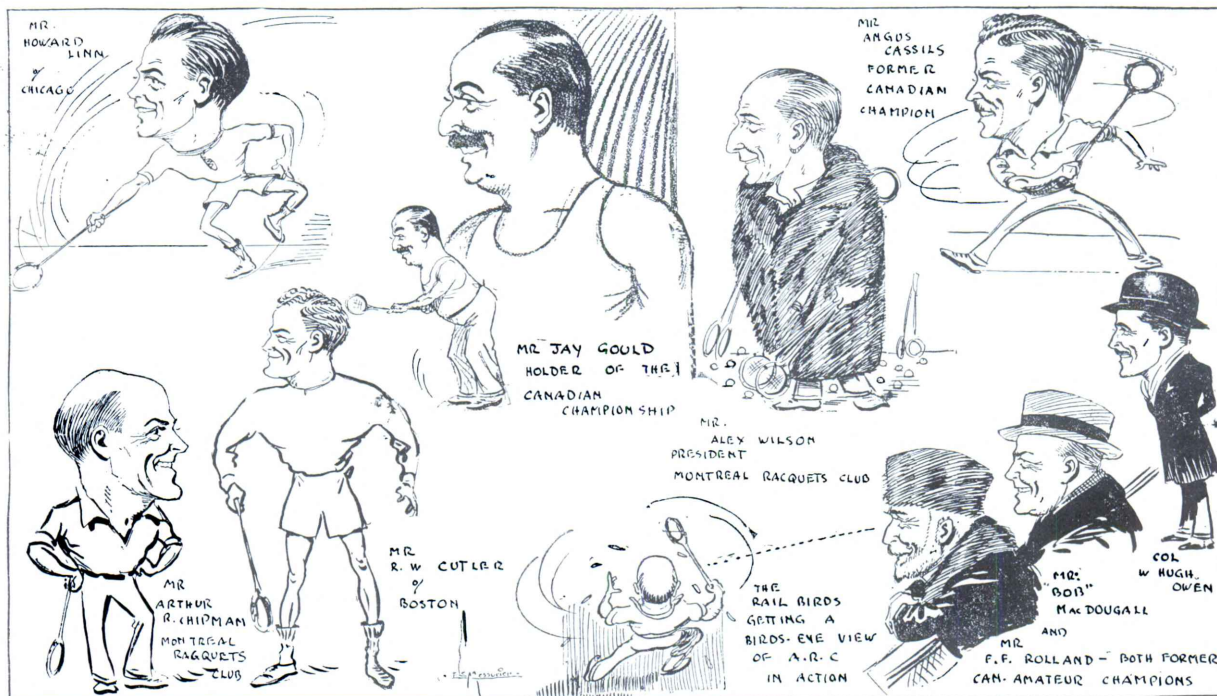
In 1923, an exchange of letters between the club's directors and the builders of the neighbouring Caron Building was initiated. The squash court walls were beginning to spread and there was some concern that the east wall of the club would collapse into the large excavation next door. Club lawyers were pressed into service, and it was resolved that the owner of the property, Mr. Caron, would rebuild the squash courts and erect a new east wall at his own expense.

Despite the seeming likelihood that the building would fall into the Caron hole, that staff were being asked to retire early, and that the club had levied its first assessment to the members in the amount of \$25.00, membership continued to thrive. In one balloting held in 1923, the following men were voted in as members: Sir Henry W. Thornton, Messrs. H. Cook, T.H.P. Molson, S. ("Choppy") Dobell, W.H. Hodgson, G.S. Brown, J.W. McConnell, F.S. Molson, T.P. Jones, A.A. Crombie, and J.D. Lawrey. Railway, beer, and newspaper stocks were leading the market in the 1920's, a trend which would continue well into the future.

On other club business, the directors negotiated unsuccessfully in 1924 to have the club's heat drawn from the Caron Building. An annual payment of \$525.00 was proposed, based on the club's estimated use of fifty tons of coal per year. At \$16.00 per ton, or \$800.00, less an amount of \$275.00, which would be written off during a three-year period against the cost of the installation of the heating system, it seemed to the directors to be a most reasonable offer. Mr. Caron, it would appear, did not agree, and the proposal was not approved. The full impact of Caron's decision would not be felt for sixty-five years, until 1989 when the heating disaster struck.

Well-known "Racqueteers" at the Montreal Racquets Club

—By LeMessurier



Newspaper caricatures of members and guests of the club during the early 1920's

February 16th, 1926.

Private

Memorandum to
Messrs. W. F. Gilmour,
A. H. Cassels,
C. H. Chipman,
D. J. O'Donohoe,
A. W. Vickers.

Boston Trip, February 17th - 22nd, 1926.

Party will leave Montreal, Wednesday evening, February 17th from C.N.R.'s Bonaventure Station at 8:25 p.m., due to arrive at Boston & Maine North Station at 7:00, Thursday morning.

Party will be accommodated in Business Car No. 81, which will be on rear of Train No. 302. No berth reservations required.

Round trip fare is \$23.75; one way, \$11.86. Tickets will be on hand on Car.

Party will leave Boston from North Station on Train No. 302, at 8:00 p.m. Sunday evening, due Montreal, Monday, 7:30 a.m. Same accommodation.

P.S.- Mr. Lelievre,-

An enclosing Green's transportation which has been received since writing. The tickets are: Form 31-17R Number 380, Montreal to Boston and return, and Pullman ticket Form 6, Number 2704, to Boston, one way.

AJH/D

M.H.- Copy to Secretary,
Montreal Racquet Club,
16 Concord Street,
Montreal, Que.

Lower berth No. 7, Car 82, has been secured for Green. Porter of Car 81 will have berth for return trip. Pullman fare going - \$4.15
" " Return - 3.75
Railway " 23.65
Total \$31.75

THE BACHELORS
REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF

COMPANY AT A SMALL DANCE
ON FRIDAY EVENING FEBRUARY THE NINETEENTH
AT HALF AFTER TEN O'CLOCK
AT THE ALGONQUIN CLUB

MR. F. S. ALLEN	MR. W. B. FELTON
MR. R. AMORY	MR. S. E. PEARBODY
MR. F. M. CABOT	MR. D. L. PICKMAN JR.
MR. A. COOLIDGE	MR. G. L. STEWARD
MR. T. J. COOLIDGE	MR. H. S. VANDERBILT
MR. C. E. COTTING	MR. P. WHARTON

R. & V. P. TO P. O. BOX 5078
CARDS NECESSARY FOR ADMITTANCE WILL BE FURNISHED

February
Sixteenth
1926.

Richmond Fearing, Esq.,
168 Beacon Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Fearing,-

With reference to telegrams exchanged with Gilmour, regarding breakfast on Thursday, I realize that if all the hotels and dining cars of the C.N.R. System were at our disposal we could produce a breakfast that would compare with what you could provide in your own house, apart altogether from environment, and I hope you will not think for a moment that we are regarding amenities in this matter, but mere convenience.

I am taking the party down in one of our Business Cars (No. 81) and as we are, I take it, in for ~~four~~ strenuous days we feel that it will be better for your household, and us, if we do not start shortly after seven on Thursday morning.

The ethical sanctity of your country is impressive, and some of the party at least will have such difficulty in avoiding admissions of moral turpitude, and dodging customs inspectors on the way down, that we will want all the sleep we can get and, having finally reached Boston (as we hope to do), we would not wish to take a chance on being seen on Beacon Street unshaved and unbathed and being arrested and shipped off to Ellis Island, or any other synthetic substitute you may have therefor in Boston for the detention of social sinners.

THE BACHELORS DANCE

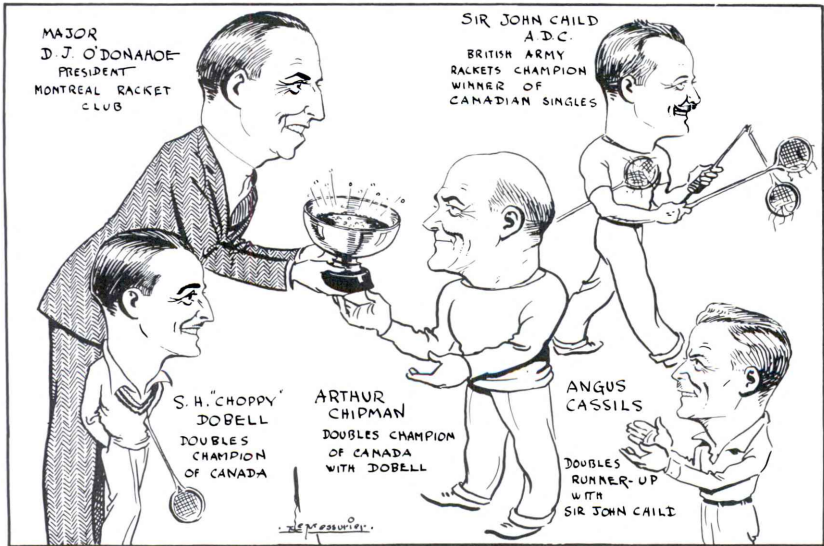
ALGONQUIN CLUB

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1926

THIS CARD MUST BE PRESENTED AT THE DOOR

Canada's Champion "Racketeers"

BOSTON
WEEK-END
1926



CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
SLEEPING, DINING, PARLOR CAR AND RAILWAY
RESTAURANT DEPARTMENT

IN YOUR REPLY
REFER TO
Personal.

Montreal, March 1st, 1926.

SUBJECT: Re Wines furnished for Special Movement of Car 93.

Mr. A.J. Hills,
Asst. to Vice-President,
Montreal.

Dear Sir:-

The following are particulars of Wines furnished
for special movement of Car 93:-

1 Bottle Monets Brandy	\$5.50
1 C-S Heidsieck Qts.	48.00
1 Old Pensioner	3.25
1 3 Star Comm. Scotch	3.75
1 Bristol Milk	4.00
	\$64.50

May I be favored with your cheque in settlement.

Yours truly,


SUPERINTENDENT.

Ken Gilmour plays at 9:30 a.m. on Thurs-
day, with your son, and some days ago I suggested that Vickers
ask him to join us at breakfast on the Car at 8 o'clock - they
can go direct to the Tennis and Racquet Club. We will go up
to your house singly or collectively anytime after nine o'clock
and I am sure you will see advantages in this plan. A raid
on any man's house by five huskies at seven in the morning is,
in my opinion, something to be avoided. The spirit, however,
which leads a man to encourage such a thing is something to
which we can all take off our hats.

Looking forward to seeing you and with
much appreciation of your kindness,

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

Arrangements for the
Boston Week-end in 1926

In 1928, the issue of constructing courts within the club for court tennis was raised and studied thoroughly by the committee. President Currie advised that drawings detailing the proposed extension and modification to the club property had already been submitted. These drawings were, unfortunately, not kept with the club records, and no trace of them could be located. The club's alternatives were discussed during the next several years, with the following entries being noted in the minute books:

. . . The President reported that the property to the west of the club [belonging to the Ladies Benevolent Society] was now being advertised for sale at \$7.00 per square foot.

- from the minutes of January 16, 1930

. . . The idea of the transfer of the Club to the top floor of the new C.N.R. tunnel [on Dorchester Boulevard west of University Street] was discussed. Mr. J.R.S. McLernon suggested that an inquiry be made into the financial status of the club so that we may know how much rent we can afford, etc.

- from the minutes of February 27, 1930

The beginning of construction of the CNR terminal on Dorchester Boulevard. The St. James Club is on the left and the Bell Canada building can be seen in the background.



and subsequently,

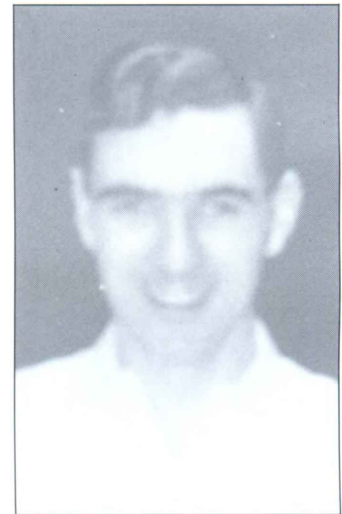
. . . The land adjacent to the property of the Club has been offered for sale. Should we decide to buy, we would require a strip 40 feet by 130 feet. It was thought by those present, however, that Sir Henry Thornton's idea of the top floor of the new C.N.R. terminals was more attractive. It was decided to give Sir Henry Thornton the dimensions required for two racket courts, four squash courts, lounge room, dining room, card room and other necessary space. The President was requested to notify the Ladies Benevolent Society that we are not interested at the moment.

– from the minutes of July 18, 1930

It will never be known what transpired between the time that these discussions took place and the new C.N.R. terminals were built; however, it is certain that the club neither moved its location, nor took the option on the land next door. In retrospect, striking a deal with the C.N.R. would have likely resulted in the relocation of the club later on, as witnessed by the demise of the St. James Club which was torn down in the early 1960's to make way for Place Ville Marie. As for the land to the west of the club, it was never developed; however, in 1988, the new owners designated it as the site for a proposed twenty-storey hotel.

By 1928, the "professional" situation at the club had not improved. Hawes had been brought back in desperation in late 1927 as Green had proven ineffective, and Cater, Green's assistant, no better. Finally, the secretary was authorized to write to the editor of *Field Magazine* in England to advise him of the possible need for a professional at the club, with a view to hiring one in the spring. On October 15, 1928, the chairman reported that he had corresponded with the Honourary Secretary of the Tennis & Rackets Association in England concerning the matter of a new professional. The committee subsequently authorized him to cable the Rackets Association.

Upon his return from England in April 1929, the president, A.S. Cassils, reported on the latest developments in the securing of a club professional. While in England, Cassils had visited the Queen's Club where he had attended a challenge match



*Ken Chantler
New professional – 1929*

MEMBERS
MONTREAL STOCK EXCHANGE

MEMBERS
MONTREAL CURRENCY MARKET

LEGGAT, CASSILS & COMPANY

132 ST JAMES STREET - P.O. BOX 1389
MONTREAL

8th May 1929

J. Barnes, Esq.
Sams Bros. & Barnes,
Hoddeston, Herts,
England.

Dear Mr. Barnes,

Following the discussion we had as to securing the services of young Chantler for the Montreal Racquet Club; I find on my return to Montreal that we would be prepared to take on this young man as soon as you are able to release him. While there is not much play during the summer months, in order to have the matter settled, we are prepared to have Chantler's engagement start as soon as he cares to come out to Canada.

As to remuneration, The Club is prepared to pay Chantler a monthly wage of \$100 in addition to racquet and squash playing fees, which we estimate should average better than \$25 per month - in addition there is the Christmas bonus which is a fair amount annually.

His duties would consist of stringing and marking, as well as general supervision of the racquet court, with an assistant.

If Chantler is prepared to accept an engagement on the above basis, we will endeavour to make him comfortable and happy in his employment, and to exercise such care of him as would be proper in the case of a young man.

J. Barnes, Esq. ----- (2)

We will undertake to secure suitable quarters, under proper living conditions, and at a reasonable price.

If it is desired we will advance the price of his passage from England to Canada, making deductions from his monthly wage until it is cleared up.

We believe this to be a good opportunity for a young man, and we would like to know as soon as possible whether the proposal is acceptable and when Chantler will be ready to come.

To facilitate communication in this respect, copy of this letter is being sent by Mr. A. J. Hills to Mr. C. J. Smith, Vice-President, Canadian National Railways, 17-19 Cockspur St. London, S.W.1, and if you will be good enough to get in touch with him, Mr. Smith will cable Mr. Hills any message you have for me in answer to this letter.

Yours very truly,

Telegraphic Address:
"CANADIAN NATIONAL, WESTERN, LONDON."

PASSENGER DEPARTMENT,

17-19, COCKSPUR STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1. 10th July, 1929.

Telephone Nos.:
REGENT 2150 (3 Lines).

Mr. A. J. Hills,
Assistant to Vice-President,
Canadian National Railways, MONTREAL.

In A/c with

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS.

S/S "ASCANIA" - 17TH AUGUST.

To cost of cabin passage in favour of
Mr. Chantler per the above steamer from
Southampton to Montreal.

Ocean Ticket No. 48430.....

* Cost of cablegram.....

(On account of Racquet Club, Montreal).

E. & O. E.

*Mr. Hill (Rover)
has received this account
from London 31/7/29*

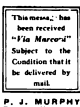
E.	s.	d.	E.	s.	d.
30.	0.	0.			
12.	8.				
			£50.	12.	8.



POST-LETTER TELEGRAM



CANADIAN MARCONI COMPANY
(LIMITED LIABILITY)



TPR P2975 CANADA 20 6 PLT OCT - 17 1928

TENNIS & RACKETS ASSOC. LONDON

OFFER EIGHTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS
PER ANNUM PLUS PLAYING FEES
AVERAGING THREE HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE TO YOUNG
PROFESSIONAL WITH SOME
EXPERIENCE; REASONABLE
INCREASE ON SATISFACTORY
SERVICE; NECESSARY LIVE OUT;
IMMATERIAL WHETHER MARRIED;
WILL ADVANCE HUNDRED DOLLARS
FOR PASSAGE AND DEDUCT PAY
OVER A PERIOD; CABLE REPLIES
AT OUR EXPENSE.

SIGNED A. S. CASSILS

between Ken Chantler and Jimmy Dear for the Junior Championship of England. Chantler had won the match three games to one. Eighteen years later, however, he would not be so fortunate against Dear in his quest to become World Champion.

Cassils had approached Chantler's father immediately after the match, inquiring whether the nineteen-year-old champion would be interested in coming to Canada. The young man had already accepted a position at Clifton College, where he was scheduled to commence as soon as the former professional, Bertie Barnes, retired. In the end, however, Chantler accepted Cassils' offer of the posting to the Montreal club for two years.

Consequently, in the minutes of June 11, 1929, it was recorded that:

. . . In reference to a new professional, Hawes having been discharged, the President notified the meeting that a young chap named Chantler would be coming out about the third week in August; also that the Club should pay his passage.

Ken Chantler sailed for Canada on August 17, 1929. In August of 1989, he celebrated sixty years of active service at the Montreal Racket Club.

A second major event occurred in 1929 when the club's president, Mr. Curzon Dobell, initiated a plan to reorganize the legal structure of the club and to obtain a charter under the name of the Montreal Racket Club, Incorporated.

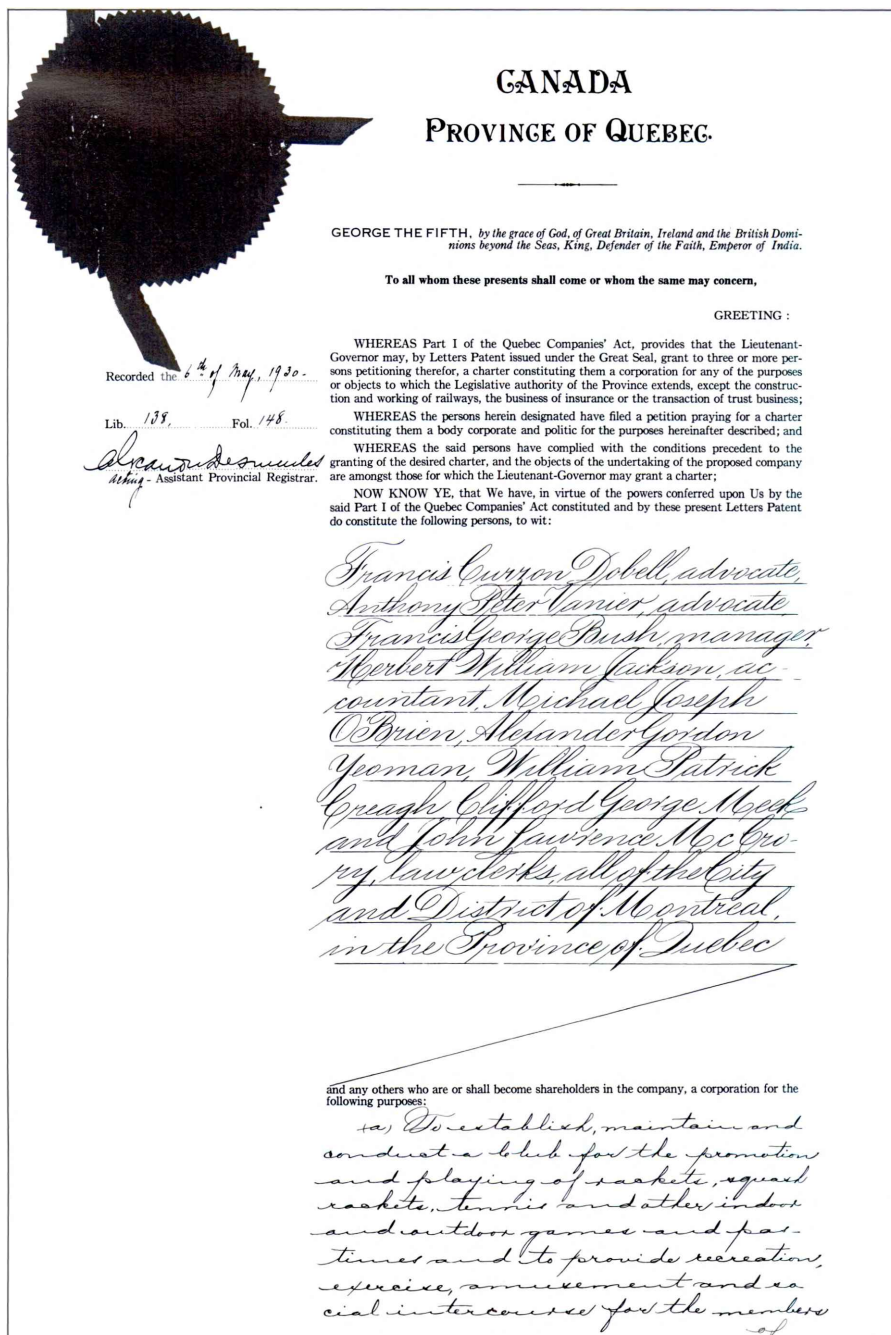
The directors of the club felt that a complete reorganization was needed. Since 1889, a total of 1,335 shares had been issued; however, since many of the original members had died or were no longer active in the club, a large number of these shares were now held by trust companies, estates, and in some cases, by minor children. There was concern that, unless some form of reorganization was effected, the club could shortly be owned entirely by strangers who, having no interest in its well-being, might seek to have it dissolved, obtaining what they could from the sale of its assets. Club assets at that time primarily consisted of the property on Concord Street, valued on the club's books at \$53,355.66. Accordingly, an application for incorporation under the Quebec Companies Act was made, and on May 3, 1930, Letters Patent were issued to F.C. Dobell, the secretary



*F.C. Dobell
President in 1929. Dobell
initiated major changes in
the club's legal status.*

*(Opposite) Ken Chantler
comes to Montreal*

The club reorganization
of 1929

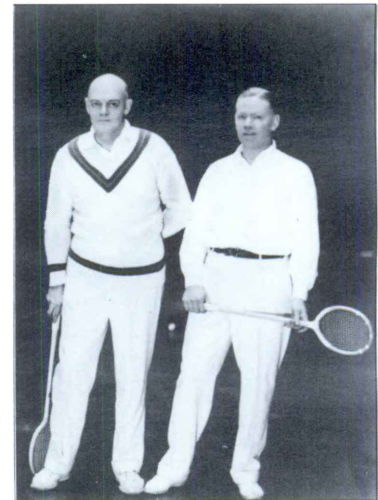


of the club, and the members of Dobell's law office constituting the Montreal Racket Club, Incorporated. It is under this name that the club operates today.

The purpose of the club, as outlined in the Letters Patent, was "to establish, maintain and conduct a club for the promotion and playing of rackets, squash rackets, tennis and other indoor and outdoor games and pastimes, and to provide recreation, exercise, amusement, and social intercourse for its members and their guests". It is fair to say that the club has never wavered in its efforts to pursue these objectives.

In 1930, the club was visited by a large contingent of British rackets players, the best being Lord Aberdare who won both the Canadian Singles and the Canadian Doubles Championships. Fifty years later, his son, Morys, also a rackets enthusiast, would publish the definitive book on rackets and tennis.

The strongest Canadian players during this period were "Choppy" Dobell, Angus Cassils, and a young lad by the name of John Rolland. During the 1920's, John A. Rolland and his brothers had been taken to the court every Sunday by their father, Frank Rolland, who had taught them the elements of the game – and a fine example he set. At the age of sixty-six, Frank Rolland beat H.C. MacDougall, some forty years his junior, in the elimination round of the 1928 Annual Handicap tournament; he subsequently lost to "Choppy" Dobell, then twenty-eight, three games to two in the finals. Frank Rolland died in December of that same year.



WINNERS FOR 1930 AND 1931.				
DATE	NAME	AGES	TOTAL HANDICAP	WINS LOST
	"MACKENZIE TROPHY" CLUB DOUBLES			
	G.D. HUBAND & G.M. TURPIN			
	"PERCIVAL MOLSON" MEMORIAL TROPHY SQUASH HANDICAP.			
	S.H. DOBELL			
	"DECEMBER" RACKET HANDICAP			
	J.A. ROLLAND			
	CLUB RACKET CHAMPIONSHIP.			
	S.H. DOBELL			
	CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP.			
	W.P. DIXON, NEW YORK.			
	DOUBLES			
	G.D. HUBAND & A.S. CASSILS.			
	CLUB INTERMEDIATE RACKET CHAMPIONSHIP			
	H.G. JOSEPH			
	CLUB JUNIOR RACKET CHAMPIONSHIP.			
	H.G. JOSEPH			
	CLUB INTERMEDIATE SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP.			
	J.F. GRANT.			
	CLUB JUNIOR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP.			
	J.F. GRANT.			
	CLUB SENIOR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP.			
	S.H. DOBELL.			
	"HERBERT MOLSON" TROPHY (RACKET DOUBLES)			
	T.P. JONES & G.S. CURRIE.			
	"ANNUAL" RACKET HANDICAP.			
	S.H. DOBELL.			
	BILLIARD HANDICAP			
	J.D. LOWREY.			
	COLTS RACKET CHAMPIONSHIP. "DOBELL" TROPHY HANDICAP			
	C.E. PACAUD			
	COLTS SCRATCH RACKETS			
	C.E. PACAUD			
	COLTS SCRATCH SQUASH			
	A. GRANT.			

Montreal Racket Club				
SEASON 1930 - 1931				
COMPETITION	Approximate Dates			
	Opening	Final		
Club Racket Championship (Doubles)	Oct. 25th	Nov. 29th		
Billiard Handicap	Nov. 1st	April 4th		
Percival Molson Trophy (Squash Handicap)	Nov. 29th	Mar. 7th		
December Racket Championship	Nov. 29th	Dec. 20th		
Club Racket Championship	Dec. 14th	Jan. 10th		
Canadian Racket Championship	Jan. 20th	Jan. 25th		
Intermediate Racket Championship	Feb. 7th	Feb. 28th		
Junior Racket Championship	Feb. 7th	Mar. 7th		
Intermediate Squash Championship	Feb. 14th	Mar. 14th		
Junior Squash Championship	Feb. 14th	Mar. 21st		
Club Squash Championship	Mar. 7th	Mar. 28th		
Herbert Molson Trophy (Rackets Doubles)	Mar. 7th	Apr. 4th		
Annual Rackets Handicap	Mar. 7th	Apr. 11th		
Colts Racket Championship	Mar. 14th	Apr. 11th		

Mark X at right opposite Competitions you wish to enter, sign your name and return this form to the Secretary.

(Left) A page from the match book

(Top) Arthur Chipman and Angus Cassils – club's best players in the 1920's

Canadian

AMATEUR RACKET CHAMPIONSHIP 1938

SINGLES

PRELIM-ROUND

W. M. KIRKBRIDE
J. A. ROLLAND

N.Y. R & T.C. 6 8 4 = 18
M. R. C 15 15 15 = 45 Won

H. C. MACDOUGALL
J. R. LEONARD.

M. R. C. 11 6 5 = 22
N.Y. R & T.C. 15 15 15 = 45 Won

C. C. PELL, JR.
W. W. CHIPMAN

N.Y. R & T.C.
M. R. C Won

R. S. L. GRANVILLE
D. L. F. BISHOP

M. R. C 15 15 15 = 45 Won
N.Y. R & T.C. 12 7 8 = 27

1st. Round

H. C. CLARKE
J. F. GRANT

B. T & R.C. 8 15 15 9 10 = 57
15 12 10 15 15 = 67 Won

J. A. ROLLAND
J. R. LEONARD

M. R. C 18 7 7 15 5 = 52
N.Y. R & T.C. 13 15 15 12 15 = 70 Won

C. C. PELL, JR.
R. S. L. GRANVILLE

N.Y. R & T.C. 15 17 15 = 47 Won
M. R. C 8 16 6 = 30

D. F. DAVIS
R. GRANT. III

N.Y. R & T.C. 3 0 0 = 3
N.Y. R & T.C. 15 15 15 = 45 Won

SEMI-FINALS

J. F. GRANT.
J. R. LEONARD

N.Y. R & T.C. 11 3 6 = 20
N.Y. R. T.C. 15 15 15 = 45 Won

C. C. PELL, JR.
R. GRANT. III

N.Y. R T.C. 7 0 0 = 7
N.Y. R T.C. 15 15 15 = 45 Won

NAL.

J.R. LEONARD.
R. GRANT.

N.Y. R T.C 5 9 7 = 21
N.Y. R T.C 15 15 15 = 45 Won

Won BY R. GRANT. III N.Y. R & T.C.

DOUBLES.

ROUND.

R. GRANT III & C.C. PELL JR.
JOHN GORDON VRS & L.P. BEAUBIEN

N.Y. R & T.C
M. R. C

— BY DEFAULT. —

J.W. BROOKS & J.R. LEONARD.
H.M. JAQUAYS JR VRS & W.W. CHIPMAN

N.Y. R & T.C 15 15 17 15 = 62 Won
M. R. C. 6 5 18 11 = 40

G.D. HUBAND & R. ST. L. GRANVILLE
H.C. CLARK & VRS D.F. DAVIS

M. R. C 15 15 15 = 45 Won
B T & R. C. 7 4 4 = 15

C.E. PRICE & H.C. MACDOUGALL
W.M. KIRKBRIDE VRS & DR L.F. BISHOP

M. R. C 7 7 16 = 30
15 15 17 = 47 Won

FINALS

R. GRANT III & C.C. PELL JR
J.W. BROOKS & VRS J.R. LEONARD.

N.Y. R & T.C 15 15 15 = 45 Won
N.Y. R & T.C. 7 4 12 = 23

G.D. HUBAND & R. ST. L. GRANVILLE
W.M. KIRKBRIDE & VRS DR L.F. BISHOP.

M. R. C 15 15 15 15 = 60 Won
N.Y. R & T.C 7 5 18 7 = 37

ALS

R. GRANT III & C.C. PELL JR
G.D. HUBAND & VRS R. ST. L. GRANVILLE

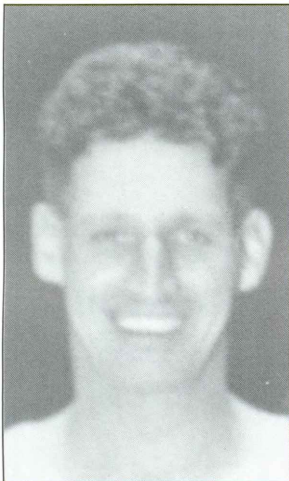
N.Y. R & T.C 9 15 15 6 15 15 = 75 Won
M. R. C 15 11 12 15 9 5 = 67

Won BY R. GRANT III & C.C. PELL JR N.Y. R & T.C.

Most major events of the 1930's have been somewhat obscured due to the loss of the minute books. Nevertheless, the arrival of Sidney Edger in 1937 as club masseur was a significant milestone in the annals of the club's history.

Sid had been summoned to the club to work on the would-be Canadian champions, most particularly during championship week-ends. The committee, in need of a steward, was so impressed that they hired him away from the Montreal Heat, Light & Power Company, where he was employed as a dynamite man. His background as a miner, and boxer of some renown, made the Welshman an ideal candidate to work in the club.

Edger's presence would single-handedly alter the pace of the club for the next twenty-five years, transforming its more leisurely atmosphere into one punctuated by a regime of hardy workouts and bruising rubdowns followed by stiffer cocktails.



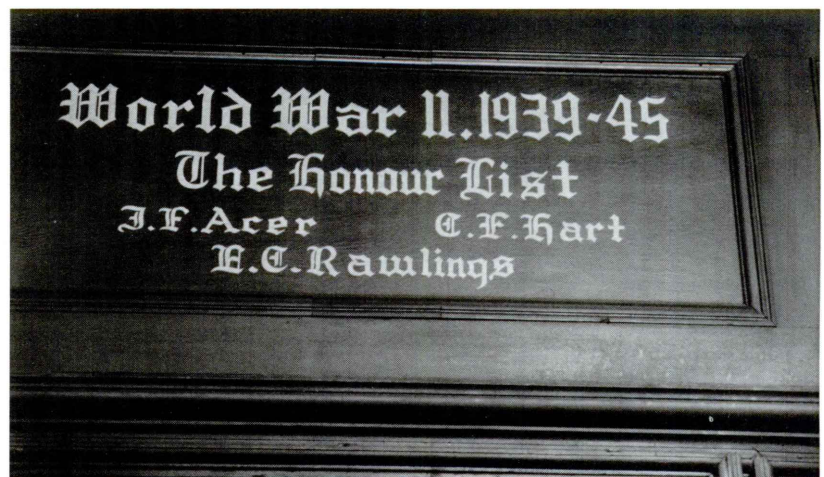
*Sid Edger
Club Steward
1937-1964*

THE WAR YEARS AND AFTER 1939 – 1963

As many members distinguished themselves in the service, letters and dispatches from overseas arrived at the club. In response to one, for example,

The Chairman extended congratulations to Mr. Blair Russel on the winning of the Distinguished Flying Cross by his son, Dal. Dal Russel is a Junior Member of the Club.

- from the minutes of October 22, 1940





October 21st, 1939

Dear Sir:

Your attention is called to the following amendment to the Club By-Law 11 covering members who join His Majesty's Forces.

"Members in good standing who join His Majesty's Forces shall be divided into three categories and shall be liable for annual dues as follows:—

- (a) Those proceeding overseas shall become Honorary Non-Resident Members of the Club and shall be relieved of the payment of dues during the period of such service.
- (b) Those stationed in Canada but outside the Island of Montreal shall also become Honorary Non-Resident members of the Club, but shall only be relieved of the payment of dues during such time as they do not wish to avail themselves of the privileges of the Club. Those wishing to so avail themselves when in Montreal shall become liable for the payment of a fee of \$5.00 per period of four weeks or any part thereof.
- (c) Those stationed in Montreal shall retain their regular Membership and shall be liable for the customary annual dues until such time as the provisions of paragraphs (a) or (b) above apply to them.

Pro rata adjustments will be made upon annual dues paid by members who join His Majesty's Forces or who transfer from one to another of the above categories during the currency of the Club's year. In like manner upon the termination of service with His Majesty's Forces, members shall automatically be reinstated as members of the class of membership to which they previously belonged and shall then become subject to annual dues which shall be computed upon a pro rata basis."

Yours truly,

A. POWIS, Jr.,
Honorary Secretary.

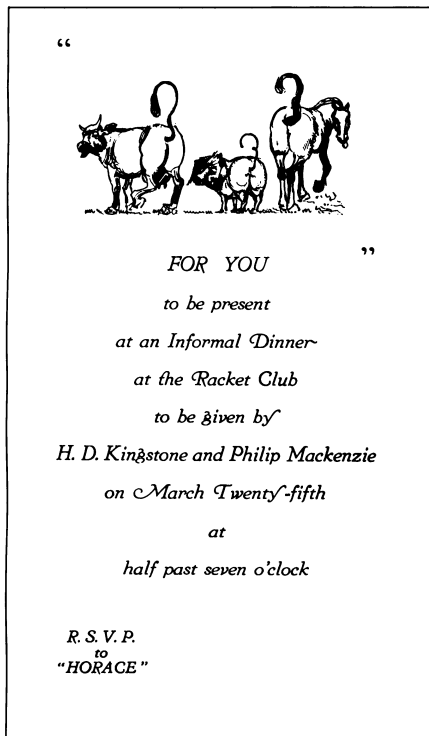


(Left) Special status was given to members serving in the war

(Right) Molson beer on delivery – the members' choice

Even though no championship tournaments were played during the war years, the court was still quite active, and the club remained one of the busiest in the city; the reason is attributed almost entirely to its healthy liquor supply. The minutes of January 22, 1942 give the best possible description of the situation:

The problem of providing against curtailment in the supply of liquor in the near future was discussed at length. It was decided, and the House Committee was authorized, to purchase liquor supplies [of] up to \$2,500.00 in value. This represents approximately one year's supply. This stock is to be insured against fire and theft. The House Committee was authorized to use the rackets court gallery for storage purposes.



A cryptic invitation to a racket club event

Very early into the war, the club had “gone long” on buying liquor, purchasing a full year’s supply in advance. This supply would become the base, or government quota, for subsequent years. When the government eventually began rationing liquor, the policy had little impact on the supply of the thirsty rackets players. The club’s reserves became a little tight in 1944, when over-indulgence threatened to deplete the club’s liquor resources. However, it was certain that, while the boys would not be allowed to go entirely dry, some restraint was required. The minutes of December 26, 1944 record that:

. . . The purchase of the remainder of the 1944 quota of liquor was left to the decision of the House Committee who were authorized to release up to six bottles of Scotch a week during the month of January – three bottles of domestic and three imported. For the Christmas-New Year’s week, seven bottles of Watson’s No. 10 were to be released, plus imported Scotch up to the number of five bottles, if necessary. In addition, one bottle of Hennessy brandy, one bottle of Drambuie, and one bottle of No. 1 gin was to be released on the Saturday preceding New Year’s.

In the court, Tony Bertolotti had filled in for Ken Chantler as professional until Chantler returned home in 1946. As the war came to a close,

. . . a letter was read from Chantler, now on active service overseas, in which he stated that the date of his return was indefinite; it was decided that Mr. Beaubien should [to expedite his return] write Chantler as well as the proper Army authorities explaining our position; a salary of \$250.00 minimum per month to be offered Chantler.

- from the minutes of October 4, 1945

After World War II, the club welcomed home its war heroes and the Canadian economy revelled in a post-war boom. It became a clubhouse tradition that Saturday lunches would be served for the members who had toiled in their offices until noon each Saturday.



“Choppy” Dobell remembers the scene well, recalling that over sixty members would generally be seated at an average luncheon during the long winter months. Drinks were followed by lunch which was followed by story-telling. Depending on the number of *raconteurs* and the length of their stories, the gathering could last until four or five o’clock in the evening, or even later. This tradition lasted well into the 1970’s; however, with the reduction in the length of the work-week and changes in week-end lifestyles, the ritual has all but disappeared.

After the war, the club once again resumed hosting its annual tournaments. The first key item of discussion concerned the question of the serve in the game of rackets. It was the opinion of the board that, if Canadian players hoped to compete against the Americans with any consistent success, the adoption of the “single service” rule would have to be introduced. It was unanimously resolved that the remaining club tournaments of 1946 would be played under the one-service rule, and that the question of the permanent adoption of this rule would be referred to the shareholders at the annual meeting that fall. The one-service rule was passed in October 1946.

The staff of the Montreal and New York clubs, circa 1937
(Front row) R. Vale, MRC;
H. Vale, MRC; E. Rodgers,
NYR&TC; P. Talk, MRC
(Back row) K. Chantler,
MRC; S. Edger, MRC;
T. Bertolotti, NYR&TC

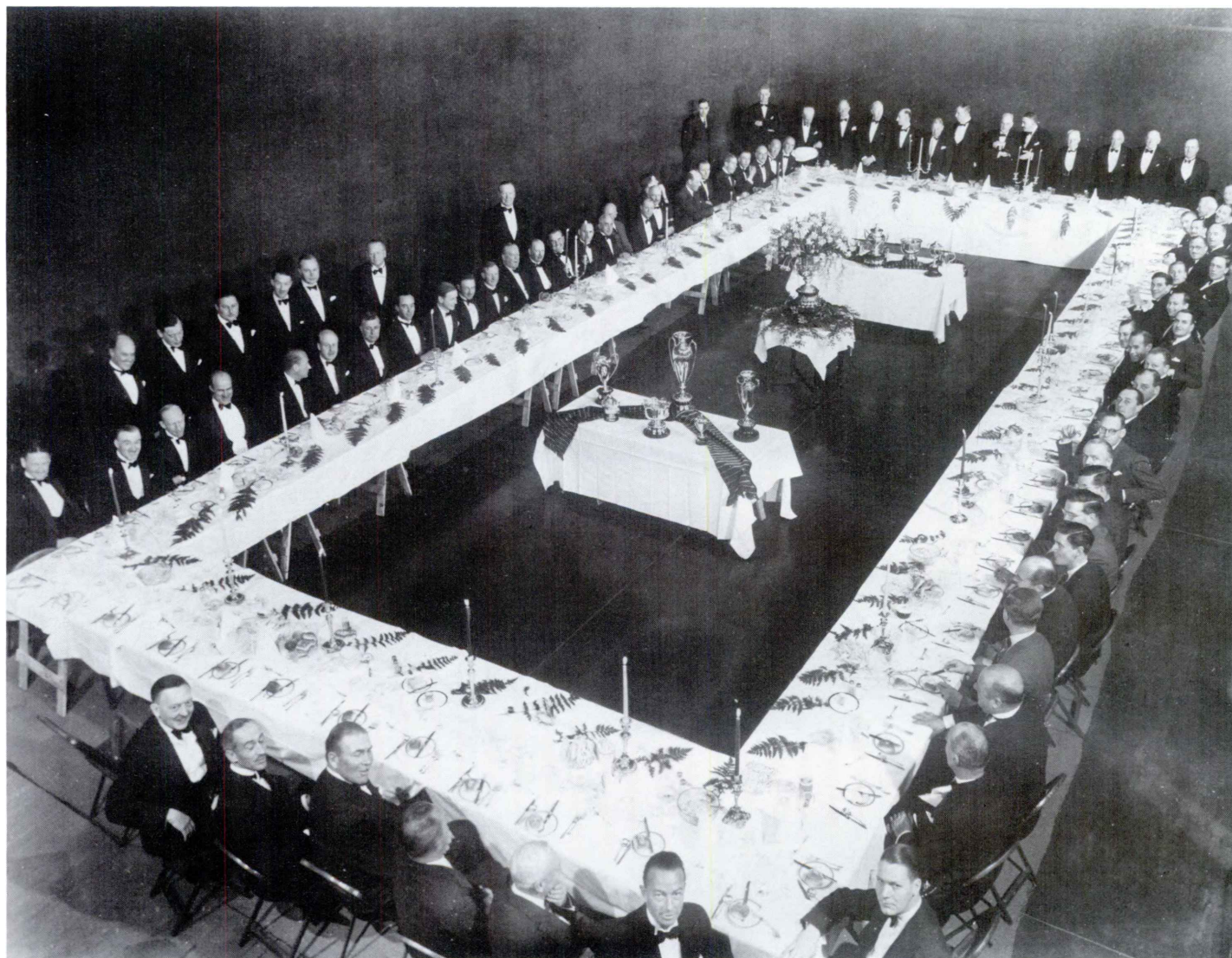


Past presidents at the 1946 dinner

(Top) (Left to right) W. Miller, A. Wilson, D.J. O'Donahoe, A. Mitchell, H.W. Hickson, A.J. Hills, R.E. MacDougall, F. Reid, G.S. Currie, H.C. MacDougall, A. Evans, S.H. Dobell, C.G. Benson, D.A. Hingston, D.B. Russel, H.G. Lafleur, G.W. MacDougall



(Left) "Choppy" Dobell at the 1946 dinner



PAST PRESIDENTS' DINNER April 12, 1946

The 1946 dinner held in the court to welcome home the boys

Head Table (south end of court, left to right): W.P. O'Brien, H.M. Jaquays, T.S. Gillespie, A. Wilson, A. Mitchell, D.A. Hingston, G.W. MacDougall, E.G. Smith, G.G. Lewis, R.E. MacDougall, R.N. Hickson, G.S. Currie

West side of court (from back to front): C.H. Gordon, P.A. Robb, D.W. Steward, L.F. Bishop, H. de M. Molson, G. Reed, P.F. Osler, G.H. MacDougall, T.C. Brainerd, T.M. Atkinson, C.E. Pacaud, A.M. Boulton, H.W. Davis, I.H. Peck, D.R. McMaster, H.R. Hampson, H.F. Seymour, H.M. Rawlings, D.W. McLean, J.V. Kerrigan, D.B. Dawson, H. Doheny, A.D. Nesbitt, D.B. Russel, J.B. Trow, E.R.W. Hebden, R.R. McLernon

North end of court (right to left): A.R. Gillespie, J.B. Peck, C.G. Benson, J.W. Brooks, H.C. MacDougall, W. Miller

East side of court (sitting, from front to back): J.A. Rolland, F.S. McGill, J. Gordon, S.B. Millen, J.A. Nesbitt, A.T. Paterson, W.W. Ogilvie, D.M. Hodgson, A.C. McKim, A. Powis Jr., J.F. Grant, S.B. White, D.A. White, K.G. Blackader, G.F. Benson Jr., J. Wallace, G. Balfour, W.W. Chipman, G. Holland, D.S. Yuile, H.I. Ross, P.B. Pitcher, L.B. Beaubien, H.G. Lafleur, W.H. O'Reilly, J.R.S. McLernon, G.W.S. Henderson

East side of court (standing, from front to back): F.A. Reid, C.T. Ballantyne, N.L.C. Mather, C.A. Parker, E.R. Brodhead, A. Rodgers, A.J. Hills, K. Chantler, S. Edger

The year 1947 was another memorable one for the club. The hottest player in North America was then a young New Yorker by the name of Bobby Grant III. He had effortlessly won the U.S. Amateur and Canadian Championships in 1947 and was poised to challenge World Champion, Jimmy Dear. There was, however, one problem – Ken Chantler. Chantler had defeated Grant in the U.S. Open in 1940, the last year before all tournaments were suspended for the war, and was, therefore, the current American titleholder.

Grant challenged Chantler for this title in January 1947 and, although he had not played for over seven years, Chantler was able to pull off a spectacular win over Grant. The final score was four games to three. The significance of this upset for Chantler was that he could now challenge his old foe, Jimmy Dear, for the World Championship. The last time that these two professionals had met was eighteen years previously, in 1929, at the Junior Championship in England. Chantler had won.

Montreal's Kenneth Chantler Upsets Robert Grant III in N.Y.

New York, January 29.—(P)—Canada leaped into the international racquets spotlight today when rangy Kenneth Chantler of Montreal upset Robert Grant III of New York to capture the North American Open title and qualify for a world championship match against Britain's James Dear. With a never say die finish that stunned a select audience at the racquet and tennis club on Park avenue, the 36-year-old Montreal professional rallied to take the seventh gruelling game 18-15 after trailing 10-4. Scores of the first six games in this least publicized of sports were 15-6, 16-18, 13-1, 15-8, 15-1 and 11-15.

Chantler, a native of Winchester, Eng., who started playing at the age of 16, will meet Dear in the first half of the world's open championship event at Montreal, probably February 10, with the second half at Queen's Club in London a few weeks later.

Grant, a murderous hitter who came back to racquets after surviving the sinking of the United States aircraft carrier Hornet in the Pacific during the Second World War, is considered potentially the greatest American exponent of racquets play of all time. He showed flashes of brilliance today, but Chantler was the steadier and won easy victories in

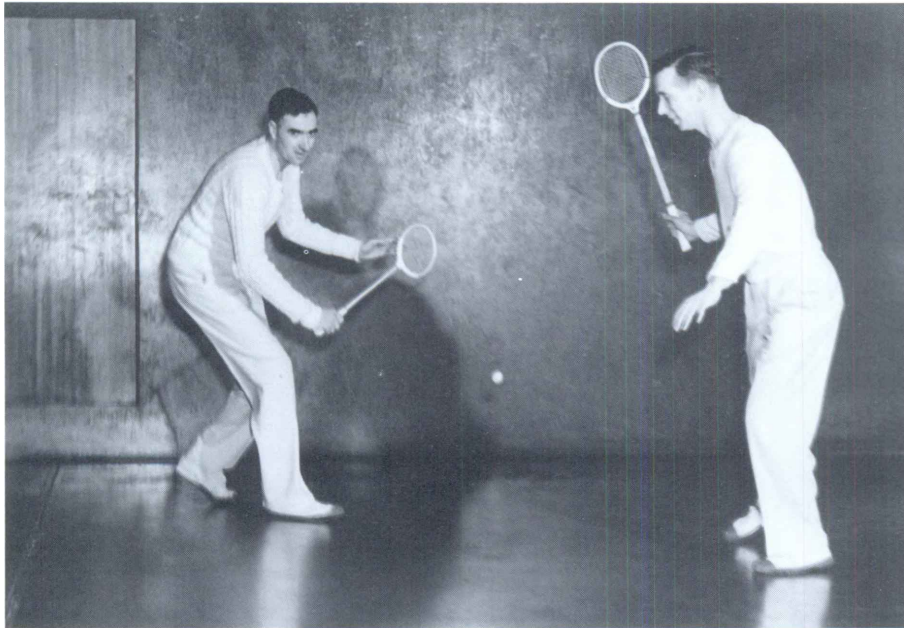
three games of the best-of-seven set.

In the final the free-swinging Grant went ahead 5-0 and then 10-4 as his killing strokes just cleared the "tell-tale" at the end of the court. Then Chantler put on a startling rally, taking a 13-10 lead before Grant recovered to tie the score and force an extra set of five.

Grant took the first two points of extra play as the spectators sat tense, but lost his service and Chantler won the next five points for victory.

Racquets play in North America is confined to half-a-dozen clubs in the United States and one in Montreal and only a handful of enthusiasts watched the Chantler-Grant match in the large, four-walled cement court, but all agreed it was one of the closest and most exciting contests of championship play.

Played with long-handled bats resembling tennis racquets and hemp, sheepskin-covered balls slightly smaller than a baseball, racquets has its closest counterpart in squash. It enjoys only a slight popularity but is one of the fastest and most intricate of sports, calling for swift reflexes and intense agility. Its lack of popularity may be traced to the fact that only a small number of spectators can be accommodated in the galleries.



The scene was set. In view of the importance this event, it was decided that the minimum purse which should be awarded was \$1,000.00. It was also decided by the committee that an additional \$1,500.00 should be raised by the club to cover the expense of Chantler's trip to Queen's for the second leg of the championship. The committee successfully appealed to its members for contributions.

Unfortunately, the match for the title was anti-climatic, for Chantler was shellacked in Montreal by a score of four games to one. At Queens, he lost four game to none. In spite of the outcome, it was, indeed, a proud moment for the members to witness the first World Championship match played by a Canadian. As it turned out, Bobby Grant never succeeded in challenging for the World title.

The first recorded accident in the Concord Street court occurred during an early 1950's pre-Christmas match between Messrs. Black, McMaster, McKim, and Davis. The foursome had been celebrating at the McNeill home where mint juleps had been pressed upon the guests. Rackets was the only way to work out the bourbon, so a sweaty, laughing and lively match ensued. Just at the end of the escapade, Weir Davis, with one of his masterful "follow-throughs", managed to clip "Doc" McMaster in the mouth. By doing so, he unfortunately lifted six whole, and two half-teeth out, scattering them about the court. It was a clean hit, and luckily for McMaster, he was laughing at the moment of impact and his mouth was open. Black's immediate

RACKETS

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WON BY J. DEAR

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Championship of the World was won yesterday by J. Dear when he beat K. Chantler (Montreal) in the second of their two matches at Queen's Club by four games to none, 15-4, 15-2, 15-8, 15-5. Having already won the first match in Montreal by four games to one—15-9, 16-17, 15-10, 15-11, 15-11—the championship was actually decided yesterday when Dear had won the second game.

In this match Dear was hardly sufficiently tested for judgment to be passed on the full extent of his capabilities. But a rightful champion he clearly is. The mistakes that he made could be counted on the fingers of one hand and it must be a question whether anyone has ever had greater control over the ball with any type of stroke, or more ability to play to a perfect length from almost any position. His footwork and quickness about the court are object lessons, and seem to give him ample time to play the stroke in his unhurried way. It was just these qualities that Chantler lacked, for where, in the Montreal or New York courts, the ball comes to him off a fast floor or backwall, here he had to go to fetch it far more. Although, when he could meet the ball as he liked, he was admirable, Dear saw to it that he had few opportunities of doing so. He forced him to play in difficult places off the sidewalls and off a backwall with which he is not yet in accord, and found him often liable to break down. In justice to Chantler, though, it should be mentioned that until his visit here, during which his practice has been curtailed, he was a stranger not only to the court but to the linen-covered ball.

Dear's taking of service had a good deal to do with his winning the first game, for he put Chantler out with a brilliant kill on three occasions, the last of which, a volley, brought him to 8-1. And though once or twice he played a rally defensively at half pace, it was not until he made his first mistake at 13-1 that Chantler was able to score again, at last making two aces by service. But he could only make one more point before the end came at 15-4.

Dear pressed on inexorably in the second game. His service became more severe—as it usually does—and seemed to deceive Chantler, for though of moderate pace, it had plenty of the kind of cut that this backwall takes. All that can be said is that Dear had complete control of the game, and that Chantler won each of his two points with a very good shot.

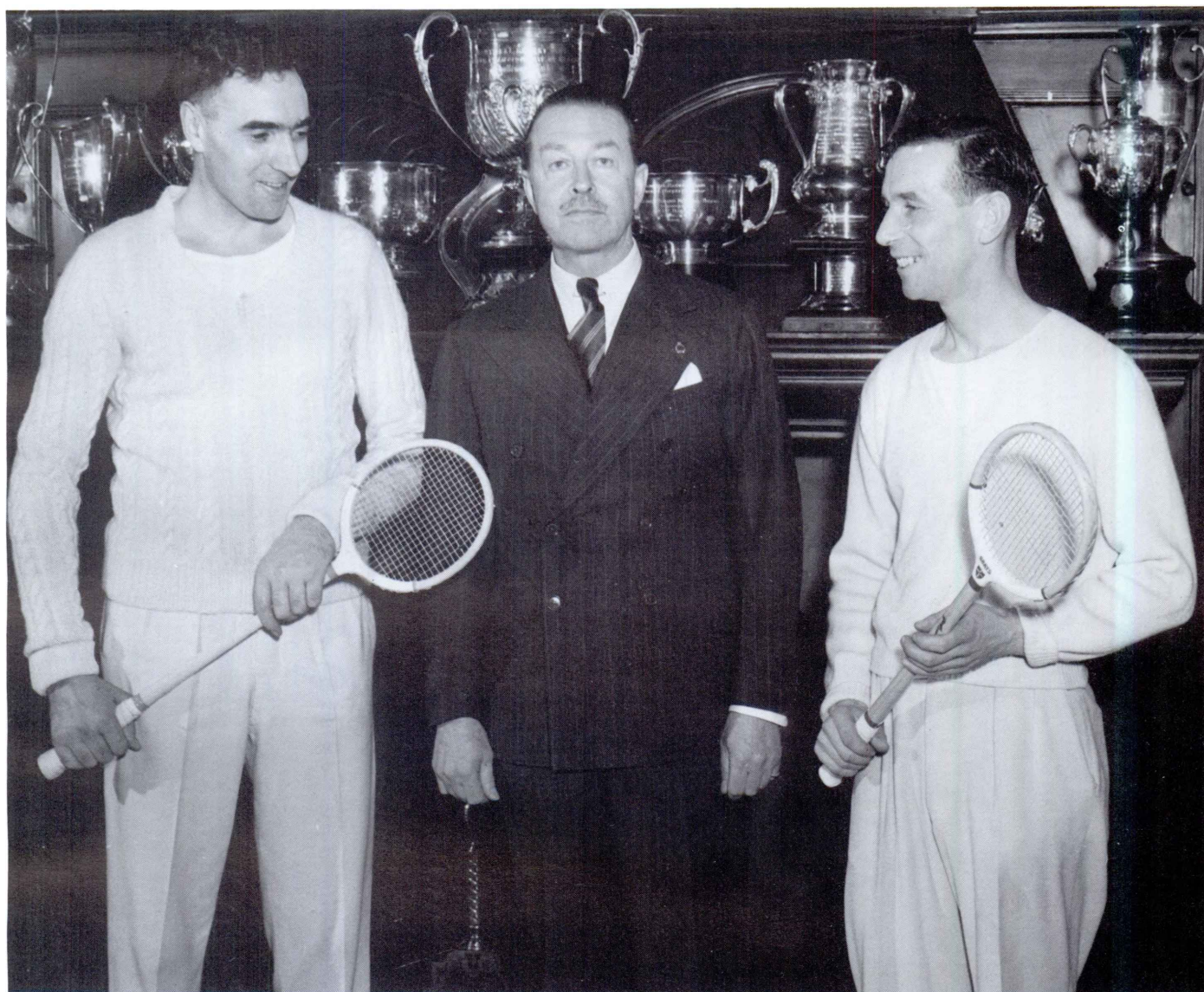
What followed was of academic interest and was enjoyed by the large gallery. The match was refereed by the amateur champion, J. H. Pawle, and was marked by A. Cooper.

This was the first time that a Canadian had contended for this championship, and it may be interesting to recall that it has been by no means confined to this country. After P. Latnam had retired, it was held for eight years by J. Jamsejhi, from India, until C. Williams beat him in 1911, only to lose it to J. Soutar of Philadelphia in 1914. It was not until 1928 that Williams at last regained it from Soutar. On Williams's death it became vacant, until in 1937 D. S. Milford brought it again to this country by beating the North American Open champion N. Setzler. Milford's retirement resulted in this match, which closes the longest and most successful rackets season yet undertaken. where play, including the tour in America, has been nearly continuous since October

(Top) Chantler and Dear
warming up for their match

THE OPEN RACKETS CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD

1947



**HIS EXCELLENCY FIELD MARSHALL THE RIGHT HONOURABLE VISCOUNT ALEXANDER OF TUNIS AND ERRIGAL.
G.C.B. G.C.M G.S.I. D.S.O. M.C. A.D.C.**

BETWEEN

**KENNETH CHANTLER
PROFESSIONAL MONTREAL RACKET CLUB**

**JAMES DEAR
PROFESSIONAL QUEENS CLUB LONDON ENG.**

Won by DEAR — 8 GAMES to 1

**1st Half Played In Montreal, DEAR won 4 Games to 1
2nd Half Played In London, Eng. DEAR won 4 Games to Love**

observation was that he had not seen so much ivory since he had left South Africa some eighteen years before. "Doc's" Christmas presents included three recordings of "All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth".

During the course of 1951, the committee resolved several important issues. Two of the resolutions resulted in traditions which have survived today, while others have dissolved in the haze. The first decision of importance was taken when the honorary secretary was instructed to enter into the minute book that the official club colours would be, from that time onward, navy blue and admiralty gold.

In another important move, it was unanimously agreed that the names of the club's honorary members would be inscribed on the north wall of the dining room. This task was subsequently undertaken, the wall now proudly displaying the names of over 165 honorary members.

The other business of 1951 was much more trivial in nature: the club's annual golf tournament was held at the Knowlton Golf Club; Sid Edger, the steward, was permitted to charge \$1.25 for rubdowns; an amount of \$5,000.00, previously earmarked for investment in Canada Savings Bonds, was instead directed to be used for the purchase of spirituous liquors for the club; and Lady Alexander, wife of the Governor-General, was permitted to watch the Canadian Championships from the lower gallery.

In 1957, "Doc" McMaster reported to the board that the North American Racquets Association (NARA) had been formed to assist in the development of the game. The Montreal Racket Club was given the task of reviewing and preparing a set of standard rules. Rule books were distributed to all members in 1960.

The decade ended with membership up, yet attendance at lunches well down. It was also a shock that bar profits had steadily declined by some 40% over the past ten years. Subscriptions were not keeping pace with expenditures, and by 1960, the balance in the deficit account had reached over \$8,000.00.

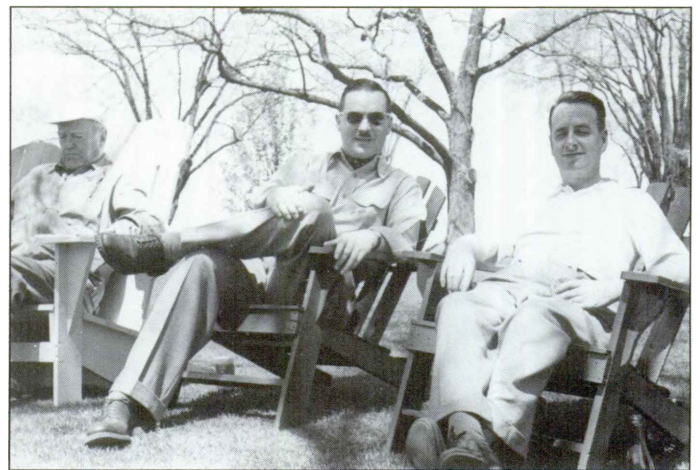
The game itself was soon to undergo its first major change in a century. In 1960, Messrs. Tom Price and Lorne Webster were commissioned by the board to investigate whether or not the English polyethylene ball should be adopted in Canada. This



"Doc" McMaster

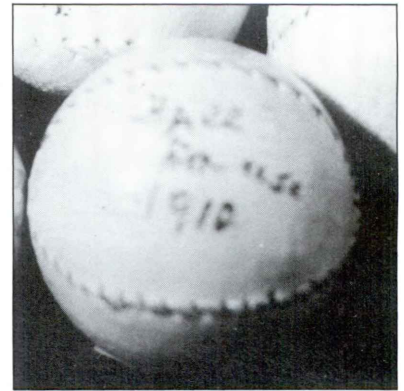


KNOWLTON GOLF TOURNAMENT 1951

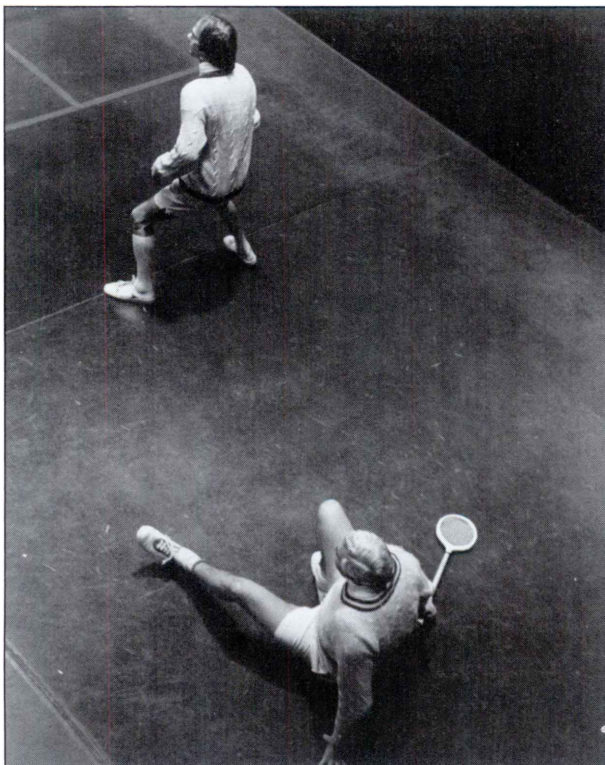


new, experimental ball had been in use in England since the mid-1950's and had proven to be far superior to the slower, stitched ball previously in use. The English had adopted the ball in 1956. It would, however, take seven more years, amid much debate and research, before the issue was resolved in North America.

Tom Price, a keen proponent of the new, polyethylene balls, had pointed out that their advantages far outweighed their disadvantages. The balls then in use would deteriorate from year to year, with a resultant increase in cost to both the club and the individual rackets-playing members. The polyethylene balls, costing only \$0.50 each, could be re-covered in the clubhouse. Their principal disadvantage lay in the fact that they tended to be sluggish before they had been in play for seven or eight points. It was argued by those in favour of the new balls, however, that at least an equivalent number of points could be won or lost in a match due to the poor condition of many of the currently-used balls. It was finally proposed as a solution that the polyethylene balls be preheated immediately prior to play. This heating method, using light bulbs and warming pads, would last only a short time, proving to be both ineffective and time-consuming. Finally in 1963, after considering arguments from both sides, NARA adopted the new ball.



Originally the balls were stitched like baseballs



(Left) Tom Price, flattened by one of the new balls

(Opposite top) (Left to right from) Ross McMaster (striped shirt), Dal Russel, John Baillie, Tom Trenholme, Lorraine Russel, Max Boulton, Dunc McNeill (two individuals to left of Ross McMaster are unidentified)

(Opposite centre left) John Baillie, Weir Davis, Jim Morton, Bob McLernon, "Skank" Kerrigan

(Opposite centre right) Arthur Hills, "Jake" Sharp, Max Boulton

(Opposite bottom) Bob McLernon, Dan Doheny, John Rolland



Christmas Luncheon

23/XII/66

To the President
But in praise of age

To be so close to Christmas Eve
A Laureate simple has to grieve
For robust hearty days gone by
When you were a giant in your father's eye.

For days when interests were really vested
And women were properly double breasted
Before the girdle and mini skirt
And gender didn't mean only dirt.

For the halcyon days when this old joint
Had the cosmic urge as a principle point
I'm inclined to think that your greatest fun
Is finished when theirs had just begun.

I am trying to say in the modern jargon
That most of you fellows are no great bargain
Compared with the men that your father remembers
So we'll soon drink the health of the elderly members.

Now you and the rest of the juvenile apes
Might consider this savours of old sour grapes
But you've got it all wrong - you must wait twenty years
To enjoy a good luncheon like me and my peers.

Boyd Millen
Poet Laureate



March 11, 1965

Dear Member:

As you no doubt know our professional, Ken Chantler, is undergoing an extremely unpleasant period of physical disability.

Just after the New Year he tore a muscle in the calf of his leg running for one of John Rolland's drop shots. He had an operation which became infected and he contracted a slight case of pneumonia at the same time which has further weakened him. As the cast was on when the infection occurred, additional damage was done and he is still in hospital where they are doing everything they can for him.

I understand he will eventually be perfectly all right and as good as new, but by the unfortunate sequence of events he may lose at least another month. Ken is feeling very low and, in fact, thinks he is letting the club down. We, of course, assured him that nothing is further from our minds; our only concern is to get him well again and we are willing to take care of his office routine. Gordon is working well in the marking box and pro shop.

The Committee have decided that in order to buoy up his spirits and to make sure he recuperates completely, we would like to send him for a short holiday in the South whenever his doctor allows it. The purpose of this letter is to raise a small purse from the membership to defray the cost of his trip. I think if a limit of \$10.00 is put on this subscription it would not be too much for most members and if the majority contribute, Ken would be assured a very nice rest for a week or two in a warmer climate.

Yours sincerely,

Lorne C. Webster
President

Encls.

Title Rackets Play Slated

By LLOYD McGOWAN

Pro Ken Chantler of Montreal Racket Club is mobile and playing again after being sidelined, and frequently hospitalized, for nine months with leg miseries.

Originally from England, Chantler has been at MRC for 37 years. He was brought here by the late Angus Cassils who was impressed when he watched him win the junior championship of England where he also played cricket, soccer and English rugby.

Since then, Chantler has won most of the major tournaments, professional and amateur, in the world.

Just now Ken, who also acts as secretary of MRC, is lining up the Canadian amateur cham-

pionship, singles and doubles, which will be played here starting on Jan. 28.

Cox Titleholder

The Canadian singles champion at the moment is Dr. Stephen Cox of Chicago Rackets Club. Chantler couldn't say whether or not he will be here to defend since he is in-terning in Chicago hospital. His play was one of the highlights of the championship tournament last year.

The current Canadian doubles champs are A. J. Cote and Christ Pickwood. The Montrealers were winners in last year's tournament.

A formidable doubles combination this year will be David Norman, of England, now at-

tending school at Boston, and Tommy Price, of Montreal.

Most of Montreal's doubles teams are still intact, including Don French and Pete Demers.

Rolland Doubtful

Chantler expects a good entry of Americans but was unable to say if John Rolland would play in the singles. Rolland has won often in the past, once when past 60 years of age.

The new manager at MFC is Norman Carpenter who replaced Sid Edger, now retired. Edger held the post for over 30 years, now lives at Halifax, N.S.

"It's good to see Ken Chantler back on the job and fully recovered after all these months," Carpenter said this week.



KEN CHANTLER

EXPROPRIATION AND REBUILDING THE COURT

1963 – 1975

The 1960's would further test the staying power of both the sport in Canada and the Montreal Racket Club when major civic projects, including the building of new streets and a new subway system, kept the committee scrambling until the early 1970's.

In early 1963, the Montreal Expropriation Board sent the club a notice advising that the city planned to build a new street to the rear of the club and would require a portion of the club's land. At first, it did not seem to be a major problem to modify the original expropriation line, thus retaining the all-important inside head-wall of the rackets court while maintaining the original court size. Engineers ascertained that the width of the south wall which projected onto the proposed street was thick enough to simply be reduced. A quotation of \$19,600.00 for the necessary work was received by the club.

The directors drafted a proposal to the City of Montreal's Executive Committee, confirming these modifications. The club would cede to the city an area at the back of the clubhouse equal to two feet six inches in depth by thirty-eight feet seven inches in width. In return, it was proposed that the city annul the original expropriation order.

One year later, the following minute was recorded at the March 23, 1964 meeting, suggesting that the compromise was imminent:

. . . While no commitment has been made by either the City or the Club, and the whole matter remains in a state of flux, it appears that a solution may be found which would enable the Club to preserve the inside wall. At the moment, without any formal agreement, the City seems to be prepared to accept a plan whereby the outside wall would be demolished and replaced by a new wall closer to the inner wall.

In his report delivered at the annual meeting of 1965, Lorne Webster advised the membership that the new street, President Kennedy Avenue, had been completed, with the portion of sidewalk directly behind the club measuring only three feet in width. Since no formal word had been received from the city,

*(Opposite top left) Boyd Millen
at McGill*

*(Opposite top right) Christmas Ode
by Boyd Millen, the club's
Poet Laureate*

*(Opposite bottom) Ken Chantler's
injury of 1965 made news both in
and out of the club*

it was believed that the court and wall would be left completely intact and that the original idea of cutting into the playing surface had been abandoned.

In March of 1966, in spite of previous verbal assurances given to the club, the city reversed its decision and ordered that the land be cleared to the original expropriation line. To the club, this meant that the court head-wall would have to be relocated.

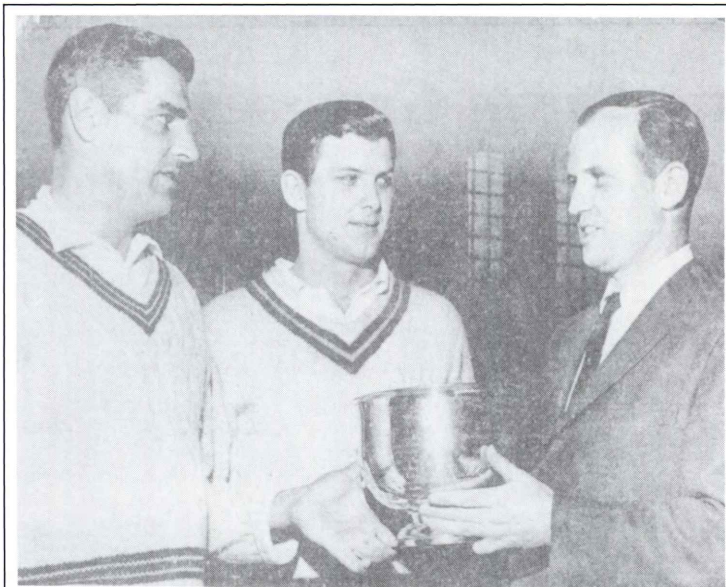
The "back-room" activity reached a fever pitch over the next twelve months. Lawyers, architects, surveyors, appraisers, real estate agents, and construction companies were brought together by the club's Forward Planning Committee which had been appointed to deal with the expropriation issue. Even the press was involved. Committee member, "Jake" Sharp, recalls the day he was touring the building with the media:

Ken Chantler's office was in the cubby-hole off the front stairs between the ground and first floor. In it, apart from Ken, were mounds of files, piles of monthly chits, heaps of accounts payable, payroll records, you name it. Massive confusion, to say the least, but of a sort that only Ken could cope with. For some reason, I thought that our cramped quarters would make for good reading and help our case as to expropriation settlements, so with a flourish, I opened the door and announced very seriously, "This is our computer room".

It is uncertain whether Sharp's tactic helped or hindered the cause. It was concluded by the committee, however, that the indemnity sought from the city should cover the reconstruction costs of the rackets court at the Concord Street location.

By 1968, firm quotations for the construction, ranging from \$127,000.00 to \$138,000.00, had been submitted to the directors. In November of 1968, a cheque for \$116,089.00 was received from the City of Montreal to cover the following costs: 289.1 square feet of land at \$10.00 per foot, or \$2,891.00; reconstruction of the south wall, \$89,600.00; and interest, \$23,598.00.

During the long and drawn-out expropriation battle with the city, rackets and membership activity had continued to thrive unabated in the clubhouse. Although new and younger faces appeared among the playing ranks, the seasoned veterans still



Tom Price of the host club and Dave Norman, centre, of England, are seen receiving the Canadian Amateur Doubles Rackets Championship trophy from Lorne

Webster, right, president of the Montreal Rackets Club. The titlists defeated the team of Tom Pugh, England, and Bill Cutler of Chicago in the final.

Staff Photo by Adrian Lunny

(Top) John Rolland, age 62, winner of the Canadian Singles Championship in 1964 by defeating Steve Cox of Chicago

(Above) Lorne Webster presenting the Paton Trophy to Tom Price and David Norman, winners of the Canadian Doubles Championship in 1966

(Right) Tom Pugh arrived from England in 1966 with expressions like "Let's knock up"

Rackets Champ

Britisher Pugh Takes Canadian Singles Play

By LLOYD MCGOWAN

Play ran pretty true to form in the Canadian rackets championship tournament at the ancient Montreal Racket Club on the weekend.

The new singles champion is Tom Pugh, originally of the Queen's Club, London, England. He is now a student at Harvard University and does his playing at Boston's University Club.

Pugh took the singles final from another Londoner, Dave Norman. The scores were 4-15, 15-10, 15-9, 15-9.

Ken Chantler, the MRC pro and organizer of the tournament, said the match was one of the best ever played in the top Canadian amateur competition.

It was reminiscent of matches in 1963 when the "choir boys" from England swept the boards and youthful Miles Connell took the title.

Montreal earned a share of the glory when Tom Price of MRC teamed with Norman for the doubles championship. They defeated Pugh and Bill Cutler of Chicago in a five-game final. The scores were 9-15, 7-15, 15-4, 15-8, 15-11.



TOM PUGH

Price and Norman were two games down but rallied strongly to take the last three in a line. They staged a thrilling finish to delight the capacity crowd in the jury-box gallery.

Dr. Stephen Cox of Chicago was last year's singles champion. He is interning in a Chicago hospital and was unable to be on the scene.

In commenting on the dominance of English players in rackets, Ken Chantler said,

"Many of the schools over there have courts and players take up the sport at a very young age. We have the only rackets court in Canada and there aren't more than ten on the continent. They are located at Chicago, New York and Boston."

Chantler learned the game in England but has been the professional at Montreal Racket Club for 37 years.

Pro Jim McQueenie and Smith Chapman of Montreal Badminton and Squash Club reached the final of the annual Toronto Badminton and Racquet Club pro-amateur squash racquets tournament on Saturday at Toronto.

They were defeated by Jim Bentley, professional at Toronto Cricket, Skating Club, and his amateur partner, Chuck Wright. The scores were 18-18, 15-17, 15-10, 16-13, 15-10.

Looking Into the Past

Sid Edger, Trainer for Millionaires, Started Career as Welsh Coal Miner

By LLOYD MCGOWAN

When the rackets players assemble for the Canadian singles and doubles championships at Montreal Racket Club later this month they will need no introduction to towering, gray-haired Sid Edger.

Sid has been connected with the ancient MRC for almost 30 years as physio-therapist, steward and then manager. He is well along on an interesting career in the sports that might be said to "belong to the rich", a singularly unusual experience.

In addition to his longtime connection with the comparatively little-known and costly game of rackets, he has trained millionaires for their polo matches on Long Island and the tennis players at Forest Hills.

Sid has travelled a long ways, met hundreds of VIPs of sports and finance, since he came out of the coal mines of Bleangwynfi, South Wales. He is now 72 years old and looks ten years younger, at least.

"It might be due in a way to my philosophy of life," he said the other day, "I've al-

ways found laughter a great tonic and I brought up my family to never speak ill of anyone. You won't believe it but I didn't have a pair of shoes until I was 12 years old."

Sid's pleasant personality has made him popular with the wealthy and it surely has paid off for him.

New York Sponsor

Meeting prominent Americans at Montreal Racket Club resulted in Sid's many treks to Long Island. He became the personal trainer of John W. Brooks, of New York Racquet and Tennis Club, a millionaire insurance man and former All-American tackle at Colgate.

Brooks was a flying ace for the United States in the First World War. He hired Sid to condition him so that he could get into World War Two, for which he trained Canadian flyers. Unfortunately, Brooks died by his own hand through depression from an incurable illness.

It was Brooks who introduced Edger to the celebrated polo-playing rich which included Jock Whitney, Gerald Balding, Pete Bostwick,

Tommy Hitchcock, Raymond and Winston Guest.

Sid trained the famous Greentree Club players, also Patrick Roche who was killed by a broken neck in a fall from his horse.

"The polo players were fine gentlemen," Sid said, "The same can be said of the rackets players. They are not all rich men but it is hard to make a distinction".

Sid has several autographed pictures of the polo-playing leaders of New York society and business as mementoes of his association with them. They are strongly indicative of his popularity.

At Forest Hills, he helped condition the top tournament tennis players, including Helen Jacobs and Kay Stammers of the Helen Wills Moody era, not exactly an unpleasant occupation.

Marion Edger, one of Sid's two daughters, was at one time a formidable player in Montreal. Marion is now employed at Macdonald College, Ste. Anne de Bellevue. She teaches tennis there and at clubs on the Lakeshore.

Originally, Sid came to Canada from his home at Bleangwynfi, where he was born, for his health, which had been endangered in the coal mines. The year was 1932. He liked the change and brought his family to join him. He took the job with Montreal Racket Club in 1935.

He became interested in physiotherapy, he said, while treating his father's back which had been strained in the laborious work of coal-mining.

Dancing Champ

Sid has always been able to enjoy himself, he says, at work or at play. For instance, he went to London from his home in Wales and won ballroom dancing championships in 1924, '25 and '26.

He can produce gold medals to prove it!

Not too many years ago Sid was hospitalized with pneumonia and his life was despaired of. But, being a rugged man, two weeks later he trudged through the snow to visit the grave of his first wife at Mount Royal Cemetery.

Sid is assisted in running the MRC clubhouse on Concord street by the new Mrs. Edger who does the cooking appetizingly and looks after the dining room. It is used, mostly on special occasions, by the 270 members of the club.

The clubhouse has never been modernized and is much the same today as it was when it was built at least 75 years ago. The arrival of members is signalled by a bell that rings when the front door is opened. It is reminiscent of the old-time country general store.

An Anglican, Sid for years has acted as chairman of the sidesmen at Christ Church Cathedral.

He doesn't like to talk about retirement from Montreal Racket Club to which he is so fondly attached. But when he does retire he and Mrs. Edger will live in the Cotswold hills of Gloucestershire, England.

After being so active throughout his life, what would Sid Edger do with his time in the Cotswold hills?

"Just churchwork," he said.



A newspaper article and poem honouring Sid Edger

Thirty-three Years of Sid and the Racket Court

By the fortune of the draw, I will impose upon your time
While you listen to this utterly extemporaneous rhyme,
For a much more useful purpose than our usual parades
We are gathered here to terminate those happy Sid decades.
Regrets should have no place at all, just think of Uncle Bud
If he had to face like Sidney his retirement to the stud
He has finished three score years and ten, I'm off by five percent
And his conduct has been dreadful, more especially during Lent.
His manner with the members is consistently unpleasant,
And he treats a Peer a little worse than he would treat a peasant.
A lengthy line of Presidents have bowed to his reproaches
As he shared his humble quarters with a regiment of roaches.

Through three decades for his old Club he strove without abatement,
And he's never been convicted of the sin of understatement.
What is that inner occult drive that kept him mustard keen
To run with such authority this very wet canteen?
It wasn't gain, it wasn't pelf, it wasn't even drink,
He must have learned to like us I'm now disposed to think.
But apart from any motives, just assuming there were none,
For several generations we have had a lot of fun.
So many things were going to miss and one of them I'll tell
Is his celebrated greeting "Hello, sir, you look like hell."
When life in distant Halifax is anything but tame,
Let's face it that the Racket Club will never be the same.

But let me make my statement unequivocally clear,
It's for Halifax I'm sorry, not the gentry gathered here.
To epitomize extravagant male Beauty at its prime,
We are giving you a picture of your facial form sublime,
We are giving you a portrait of the only man our wives
Would accept with great composure as he ran our private lives,
And maybe I should add that just ahead of Easter Morn,
We will give you something else to make your bankers less forlorn,
So go, old friend, to your retraite we feel a major loss,
But we'll never more subject ourselves to such a stringent boss,
And if I say "God bless you in your cottage by the sea"
A lot of splendid friends would like to add: "so mote it be."

So here's to Sid Edger,
We've balanced his ledger
Though we find it comes out in the red.
He's the richest young fellow
In friends blash or mellow
And there's really no more to be said.

chorus



Sid Edger, manager of the Montreal Racket Club, is seen with U.S. polo star Raymond Guest, when he served as trainer for several top players at New York.

clearly dominated the championships. In the early 1960's, the most formidable players included three-time Club Champion Lorne Webster, Tom Price, and Tony Lafleur. Two young Englishmen, David Norman and MacDonald Bailey, who were studying at McGill University, proved to be very successful in the Montreal court as well as in a number of NARA-organized tournaments throughout the United States.

Perhaps the most amazing feat in the Canadian Singles Championship was the victory of John Rolland in 1964. At sixty-two years of age, Rolland soundly defeated Steve Cox of Chicago by the scores of 15-7, 11-15, 15-12, 15-5. This victory marked the first time since 1929 that a club member had won the Canadian Singles. It is extraordinary that Rolland, who won the Club Junior Championship in 1926, was still in fine enough form almost forty years later to win this coveted championship. He had, indeed, followed in the footsteps of his father who had won the Canadian title in 1912 and had continued to win major tournaments well into his sixties.

In 1964, in honour of Sid Edger's retirement after twenty-seven years of service, the club invited all past presidents and honorary members to a special testimonial evening. Sid moved to Nova Scotia with his much younger wife, Bridget, and kept in touch with some of the members who visited the Maritimes during the summer.

One member, Doug Creighton, recalls meeting him in 1971 when Sid discussed his decision to remain in Canada rather than return to Wales or England. Sid had recently purchased a strategically-located burial plot on a height of land at the Anglican churchyard at Head of St. Margaret's, allowing him a perfect view of the front door of his house. "Sah," he had bellowed, "for the hereafter, I can now keep an eye on the house and any S.O.B. who comes chasing after my wife." Sid Edger was replaced by Norman Carpenter and his wife in 1964.

Another notable player was Ned Pacaud who played regularly from the early 1930's until his retirement in the mid-1960's. Pacaud had been invited to the club as a Colt during the late 1920's. Colts were young men permitted to use the club on a trial basis. Those who met the entrance standards were subsequently elected as members. Pacaud won his first tournament in 1934 as the doubles partner of George Huband. Thirty years later, he teamed up with long time partner "Skank"

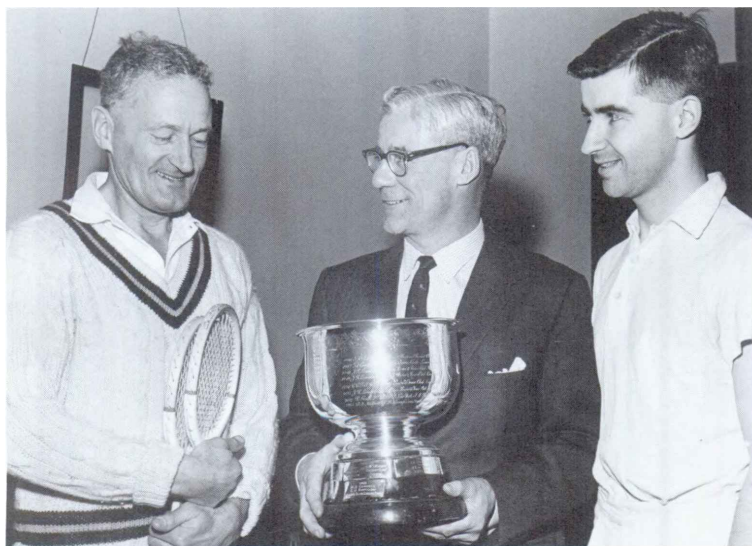


Sid Edger and Arthur Hills

(Right) 1964 Canadian Doubles Champions, Ned Pacaud and "Skank" Kerrigan

(Below) 1964 runners-up John Rolland and Tim Wagg with Dan Doheny

(Opposite) Championship dances were held in the Timmins' basement during the early 1960's



Kerrigan, defeating John Rolland and Tim Wagg in the 1964 Canadian Doubles Championship by the scores of 15-7, 11-15, 15-12, 15-5.

The following year, 1965, the same team won the Club Doubles Championship over Tom Price and David Culver. This was Pacaud's fifteenth Club Doubles Championship, a tournament in which he had also been a six-time runner-up. His singles record stands at five Club Singles Championships, at which he is also a five-time runner-up. Pacaud's impressive Club Doubles record would not be eclipsed until 1987 when David McLernon won his sixteenth Doubles Championship.



In 1967, the committee organized the first post-season tournament in club history, an event scheduled to coincide with the Canadian Centennial and Expo '67. An impressive collection of top rackets players from the United States and England were assembled to do battle against the Canadian players in both a singles and a doubles draw.

The top seed at the tournament was Englishman, James Leonard, who had unsuccessfully challenged Geoffrey Atkins for the World Championship in 1963. Leonard was, however, eliminated in his first match by Pete Boswick, the American Court Tennis Champion and eventual tournament winner, in three straight games.

A Centennial Tournament first-round match that likely did not generate much interest at the time took place between a nineteen-year-old Englishman named Willie Surtees and a Montrealer playing in his first tournament, David McLernon,

CANADIAN CENTENNIAL INVITATIONAL RACKETS TOURNAMENT

Montreal Racket Club, Montreal

MAY 1 to 6, 1967

SINGLES

J. W. LEONARD					
Tues. 1.00 p.m.	BOSTWICK				
T. J. WAGG	15/10 15/11 15/10				
Mon. 6.30 p.m.	BOSTWICK				
G. H. BOSTWICK	15/12 15/14 15/10				
A. J. LAFLEUR		THURSDAY			
Mon. 1.00 p.m.	MILNE	12.00 Noon			
G. P. MILNE	15/14 15/13 15/14	6.30			
Wed. 12.00 noon	HOGBEN				
J. G. H. HOGBEN	7/6 15/12 15/14				
G. A. R. SWEATMAN		FRIDAY			
Tues. 12.00 Noon	SWEATMAN	12.00 Noon			
P. READ	15/4 15/7 15/6				
W. J. C. SURTEES		THURSDAY			
Mon. 12.00 Noon	SURTEES	12.00 Noon			
D. McLERNON	15/12 15/14 15/12				
Wed. 1.00 p.m.	GRACEY				
K. M. K. GRACEY	15/15 15/11 15/9				
C. J. HUE-WILLIAMS		SATURDAY			
Wed. 4.00 p.m.	HUE-WILLIAMS	11.00 a.m.			
W. CUTLER	15/10 15/15 15/10				
M. G. M. SMITH		THURSDAY			
Tues. 2.00 p.m.	SMITH	1.00 p.m.			
C. R. SCOTT	15/15 15/15 15/4				
Mon. 2.00 p.m.	COX				
S. COX	15/15 15/15 15/8				
A. J. COOTE		FRIDAY			
Tues. 5.30 p.m.	BRIDGEMAN	1.15 p.m.			
R. L. O. BRIDGEMAN	15/14 15/15 15/15				
Mon. 11.00 a.m.	BRIDGEMAN				
I. B. CAMPBELL	15/15 15/15 15/1				
L. C. WEBSTER		THURSDAY			
Wed. 2.00 p.m.	PUGH	2.00 p.m.			
C. T. M. PUGH	15/15 15/15 15/4				

All matches will be best of five games.

DOUBLES

J. W. LEONARD — C. J. HUE-WILLIAMS					
THURSDAY		LEONARD & HUE-WILLIAMS			
6.00 p.m.		15/15 15/15			
5.30		5/7 6/6			
T. E. PRICE — D. C. BARWICK		FRIDAY			
Thurs. 9.30 a.m.	PRICE & BARWICK	5.15 p.m.			
C. C. PELL — R. L. O. BRIDGEMAN		15/15 15/17 15/15			
15/10 11/15 15/12		12/10 15/18 10/10			
C. R. SCOTT — R. L. COOPER		LEONARD & HUE-WILLIAMS			
Tues. 3.00 p.m.	READ & COLHOUN	15/15 11/17 15/15			
P. READ — S. D. COLHOUN		12/10 15/18 10/10			
15/6 18/15 13/15 17/7					
WEDNESDAY					
6.15 p.m.					
A. J. LAFLEUR — D. W. TAYLOR		HOGBEN & SURTEES			
Mon. 5.15 p.m.	HOGBEN & SURTEES	15/15 15/15			
J. G. H. HOGBEN — W. J. C. SURTEES		13/11 3/3			
15/15 15/15 2/2 11/11					
C. T. M. PUGH — S. COX		SATURDAY			
Tues. 10.45 a.m.	PUGH & COX	3.00 p.m.			
T. J. WAGG — D. N. STOKER		15/15 17/15 13/15 14/4			
15/15 15/15 3/7 9/9					
WEDNESDAY					
5.00 p.m.					
R. TURNER — M. W. SALES		PUGH & COX			
Tues. 4.00 p.m.	SWEATMAN & MILNE	15/15 15/15 15/12			
G. A. R. SWEATMAN — G. P. MILNE		1/15 10/10 12/12			
15/15 15/15 5/6 6/6					
A. J. COOTE — D. McLERNON		FRIDAY			
Thurs. 10.45 a.m.	GOOTE & McLERNON	6.30 p.m.			
W. CUTLER — J. V. KERRIGAN		15/15 15/15 1/6 9/9			
15/15 16/13 9/9 13/13					
THURSDAY					
4.30 p.m.					
R. M. K. GRACEY — M. G. M. SMITH		GRACEY & SMITH			
		15/15 15/15 13/15 14/4			

SEEDED PLAYERS
1. J. W. LEONARD
2. C. T. M. PUGH

SEEDED PAIRS

1. J. W. LEONARD — C. J. HUE-WILLIAMS
2. R. M. K. GRACEY — M. G. M. SMITH

All matches will be best of five games.



CENTENNIAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT 1967

*(Back row) J. Norris, A. McKim, T. Lafleur,
G. Sweatman, R. Turner, W. Stavert,
H. Carthew, D. Stoker, I. Campbell,
G. Milne, C. Scott*

*(Third row) T. Price, M. Smith, J. Ronalds,
T. Wagg, R. Gracey, P. Pitcher, L. Mather,
D. Barwick, T. MacDougall, A. Reaper, P. Robb*

*(Second row) J. Hogben, J. Leonard, J. Rolland,
A. Hills, C. Pell, P. Rider, D. Bridgeman,
K. Wagg, C. Hue Williams, T. Pugh*

*(Front Row) B. MacDougall, A. Coote, S. Cushing,
W. Surtees, J. Cushing, J. Kenward, M. Sullivan*



May 1, 1967

The idea for this Tournament came upon us gradually. For a year or more we have heard about Centennial projects ranging from a cross country canoe trip in the tradition of les voyageurs, to Expo 67. It seemed to us that a special Club event should be held this year to mark the larger occasion and also, perhaps, to remind rackets players everywhere that our Club has a history and tradition of its own.

Thus the Canadian Centennial Invitational Rackets Tournament was born. It could not have come into being without the hearty endorsement and support of the Club members and the hard work of the various Committees. Nor indeed, would it have been pursued to conclusion without the enthusiastic reception it received from players, present and past, in England and the United States. In this connection, I should like to thank Dick Bridgeman for the excellent job he did in organizing the British players, and Clary Pell, the President of the North American Racquets Association, for his endorsement and support.

Excellent rackets will be played by some and enjoyed by the rest of us this week. The game, however, is only the catalyst which breeds the sportsmanship and unique camaraderie which exists among rackets players. This Centennial project will, we hope, re-ignite this spirit among the older players and encourage the younger Montreal members in their play while imbuing them with the tradition of the game.

May all of you have a memorable time.

PAUL R. RIDER
President.

*1967 Centennial Tournament
C. Pell, M. Smith, J. Rolland,
R. Gracey, P. Rider*



then twenty-three years of age. Surtees outlasted McLernon and won the match with a score of 15-9, 15-11, 9-15, 15-12; he then, however, lost to Richard Gracey of England. Gracey, another fine player, later combined with his fellow countryman, Martin Smith, to win the Centennial Doubles Tournament.

The die had been cast. McLernon and Surtees would do battle during the next eleven years in some of the most memorable matches seen in this court during the twentieth century. Willie Surtees would become the World Champion in 1972. He would remain the best player in the world until dethroned by Englishman John Prens in 1981. In the world of rackets and at the Montreal court, there were many colourful days ahead.

In early 1969, the club's Forward Planning Committee met to examine three alternatives which had been put before the membership with respect to the city's granted indemnity of \$116,089.00. These options were: to demolish the present clubhouse and rebuild it from the ground; to retain the present structure of the clubhouse and renovate the interior; or, to shorten the rackets court by three feet and suspend any other modifications for the immediate future.

It was quickly ratified by the directors that the size of the court would remain at the regulation size of sixty feet by thirty feet. It was therefore decided that the second option, that of retaining the exterior structure and renovating the interior, would be the most practical route for the club at that time.

Tenders were sent out in April 1969, and construction commenced in May. The general contractor, Montclair Construction, won the bidding with a quotation of approximately \$155,000.00.

The modifications to the clubhouse included the moving of the rackets court head-wall by approximately four feet, the rebuilding of one squash court, the addition of a sauna, the relocation of the bar area, and renovations to the kitchen. To make up the shortfall in the construction costs, an assessment was levied on the members. History had begun to repeat.

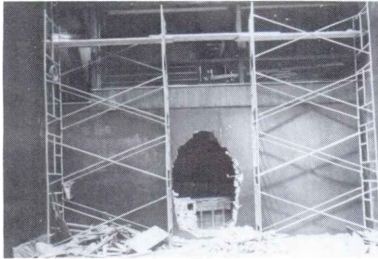
The new-look clubhouse opened in September 1969, and an impressive, inaugural dinner was held in the court to honour the occasion. Now that the club's future in its present location had finally been secured, the membership was encouraged to seek out suitable new candidates, and in 1970, twenty new members joined, with eight more following one year later.

In 1971, Norman Carpenter resigned as club steward. The club also lost waiter, Albert Paquin, running shoes and all. Joe Kling, a young chap who had worked at the Mount Royal Club and whose mother was a West Berlin haberdasher, was offered the position of steward while his wife was hired to do the cooking. Joe Kling arrived at the club in the summer of 1971 with his wife, two daughters, and a dog that barked continuously for the next fifteen years. He was to have the same effect on the younger members that Sid Edger had had thirty years previously. Joe Kling passed away in 1984, but he will be long remembered at the club for his always-amusing war stories and his habit of tiptoeing off to his favourite bar – the John Bull Pub.

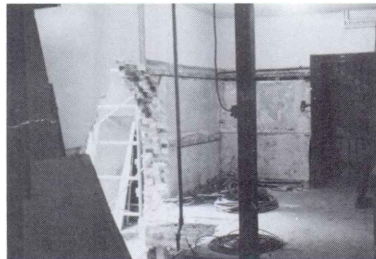
*Joe Kling
Colourful club steward
from 1971-84*



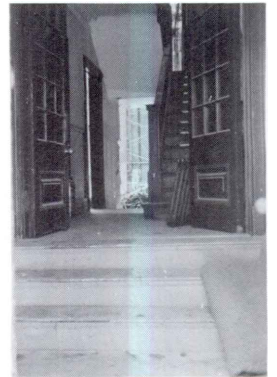
THE RECONSTRUCTION 1969



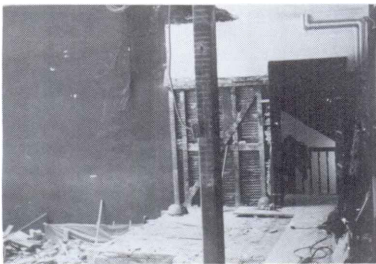
BACK WALL WITH DOOR REMOVED



HALLWAY WITH DOOR
TO COURT TAKEN OUT



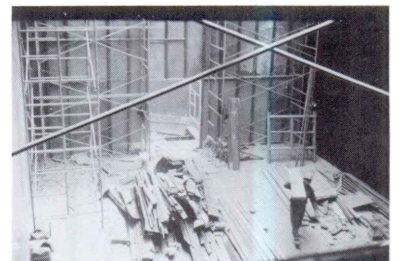
LOOKING FROM FRONT
DOOR THROUGH INTO COURT
WITH BACK WALL REMOVED



HALLWAY WITH ENTIRE
BACK WALL REMOVED



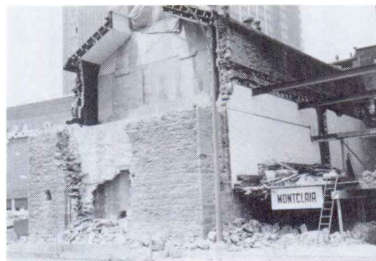
J.A.ROLLAND SUPERVISES
FROM LOWER BALCONY



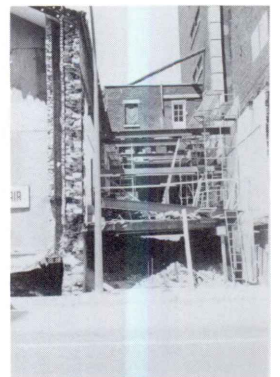
SCAFFOLDING AND FORMS FOR
NEW FRONT WALL



FROM BLVD. PRESIDENT KENNEDY
THE FORMWORK FOR THE NEW FRONT
WALL FOUR FEET INSIDE THE OLD



DOUBLE-LAYERED FRONT WALL
PARTIALLY DEMOLISHED



LOOKING NORTH FROM BLVD.
PRESIDENT KENNEDY - WHERE
THE SQUASH COURTS WERE

COURTESY A.R. McKIM

Ode written by Boyd Millen

1969 Dinner to celebrate the
completion of the court

Montreal
Racket Club Dinner
30/X/69

chorus
Hurrah, hurrah, we beat the plebs again
Hurrah, hurrah, bring on your better men,
For we are not afraid to beard the lion in his den,
When we fight for the wrong - chun!

In circa eighteen ten, they say
This queer old joint got under weigh,
But who they were I say in verse
I really couldn't care a couse.

Be it true or false you have to know,
That a hundred and sixty years or so
Has seen this club like my dreadful verse
Go steadily down from bad to worse.

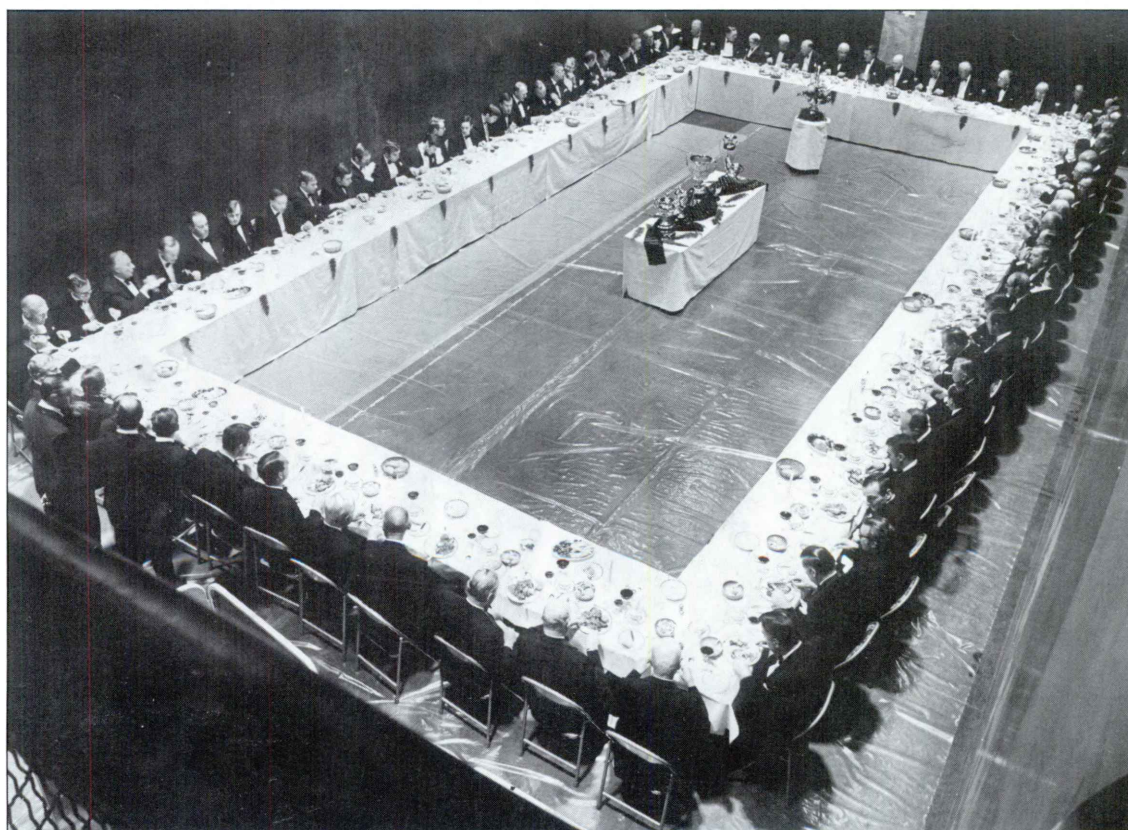
A curious collection over seven generations
Have occupied these quarters bereft of veneration,
And if the occupants to-night as you can plainly see
Are no special bargain, then it's just as it should be.

We have been harassed by the forces of good,
But I'm happy to say that we have withstood
Their most violent onslaught, and now we have fought
If you stick to your sins you can stick to your ground.

Some members hit a little ball as often as they can,
And there's usually a Roland who is always in the van,
And when arthritis cripples us we are free to choose,
We continue coming here so we can really hit the booze.

The forces of evil and urban existence
Have assailed our retreat with amazing persistence,
But we gripped our loins and took a firm grip
And smote all the Philistines' ass over lip.

The President tells me I should be polite
To our lovable Yankee's who came for the night,
So let's have a chorus and sing it like hell,
For Stephen and Bobby and Larry Pell.



FROM THE SEVENTIES TO THE CENTENARY 1975 – 1990

By the mid 1970's, despite the massive exodus from Quebec, the club was enjoying prosperous times. In 1975, bar profits had more than doubled from 1970 levels. Play in the rackets court hit a new all-time high of 1,887 hours, and both Englishmen and members of many of the American clubs were becoming regular visitors to the Canadian Championships.

In 1974, further renovations had been undertaken in the clubhouse. The billiards room was converted into a lounge with a bar and renamed the President's Lounge.

In 1975, after forty-six years as club professional, Ken Chantler announced his decision to retire. A young English professional by the name of David Philips visited the club later that year and met with the directors. He was offered the position and was scheduled to start in July of 1976. In a minute of February 1977, however, the following entry was recorded:

. . . With the disappointing disappearance of David Philips, an ad soliciting applicants for the position of Professional was placed in an English racquets magazine.

Upon questioning the committee responsible for the hiring of Philips, it was learned that he had never shown up in July 1976. Ken Chantler was brought out of retirement.

The highlight of the 1970's was the Quadrathlon Olympic Tournament, an event timed to coincide with the July 1976 Montreal Summer Olympic Games. The tournament was organized for teams from three countries – namely, England, the United States, and Canada – to compete against each other in four different sports: rackets, tennis, squash, and golf. Venues where the competitions were played included the Montreal Racket Club, the Mount Bruno Golf Club, and the Hillside Tennis Club. Socially, a memorable barbecue was held at the Norris estate in Hudson, and later in the week, a boisterous party shook the foundations of the Mount Royal Club.

A crack contingent of rackets players had arrived from England for this event, led by their veteran captain, David Norman. Determined to trounce both the Americans and the Canadians, the Englishmen embarked on a serious spring



*(Left) The British Team: (Back row, left to right) G. Milne, C. Hue Williams, W. Boone, J. Rogers
(Middle row) N. Hurst Brown, C. Swallow, D. Norman, A. Milne, C. Palmer Tompkinson
(Front row) "The Rat" (team mascot)*



*(Right) The American Team: (Back row, left to right) P. Read, D. Campbell, M. Sales
(Front row) R. Wood, D. Hamlin, W. Surtees, G. Hendrick*



*(Left) The Canadian Team:
(Back row, left to right) N. Lees, D. McLernon, M. Huband
(Front row) T. Wagg, L. Webster, D. McEntyre, T. Price
(Note: The Canadian Team crests are Mount Royal Club cocktail coasters)*

*Group photo
1976 Quadrathlon Olympic
Tournament competitors*



training program. The results clearly showed that the English had dominated the competition, finishing with a combined score of 49.5 points, compared to 30.5 points for the American team, and a meagre 16.0 points for the Canadians.

An Invitational Rackets Singles Tournament was played in conjunction with the Quadrathlon. Ten Englishmen, three Canadians, and one American made up the draw. A very young Willie Boone met Willie Surtees in the final, which Boone dominated and easily won. The final scores were 4-15, 15-9, 15-6, 15-10. Ironically, three years later, Boone went down to defeat at the hands of Surtees five games to none in the 1979 World Championship.

The most superb match in the singles draw was the David McLernon/Andrew Milne semi-final. McLernon had lost the first two games of the match by identical scores of 14-16 and had then fought back to win the next three games with scores of 15-10, 15-11, 15-2.

With Ken Chantler, now sixty-seven years of age, efforts were again made in 1977 to find a replacement for him. By September, Jack Pang, a squash professional, had been hired. However, he had some difficulty adapting to the game of rackets despite the efforts of several of the top club players to assist him in the transition. Meanwhile, the committee had organized a testimonial retirement dinner for Chantler to coincide with the 1978 Canadian Championships.



The Montreal Racket Club

cordially invites you to attend

The 73rd Annual

Canadian Amateur Rackets Championship

at Montreal

on January 26 - 29, 1978

Thursday, January 26th

- Preliminary round matches
- Ken Chantler Testimonial Dinner
- Stag - Black Tie - 7:30 p.m.

Friday, January 27th

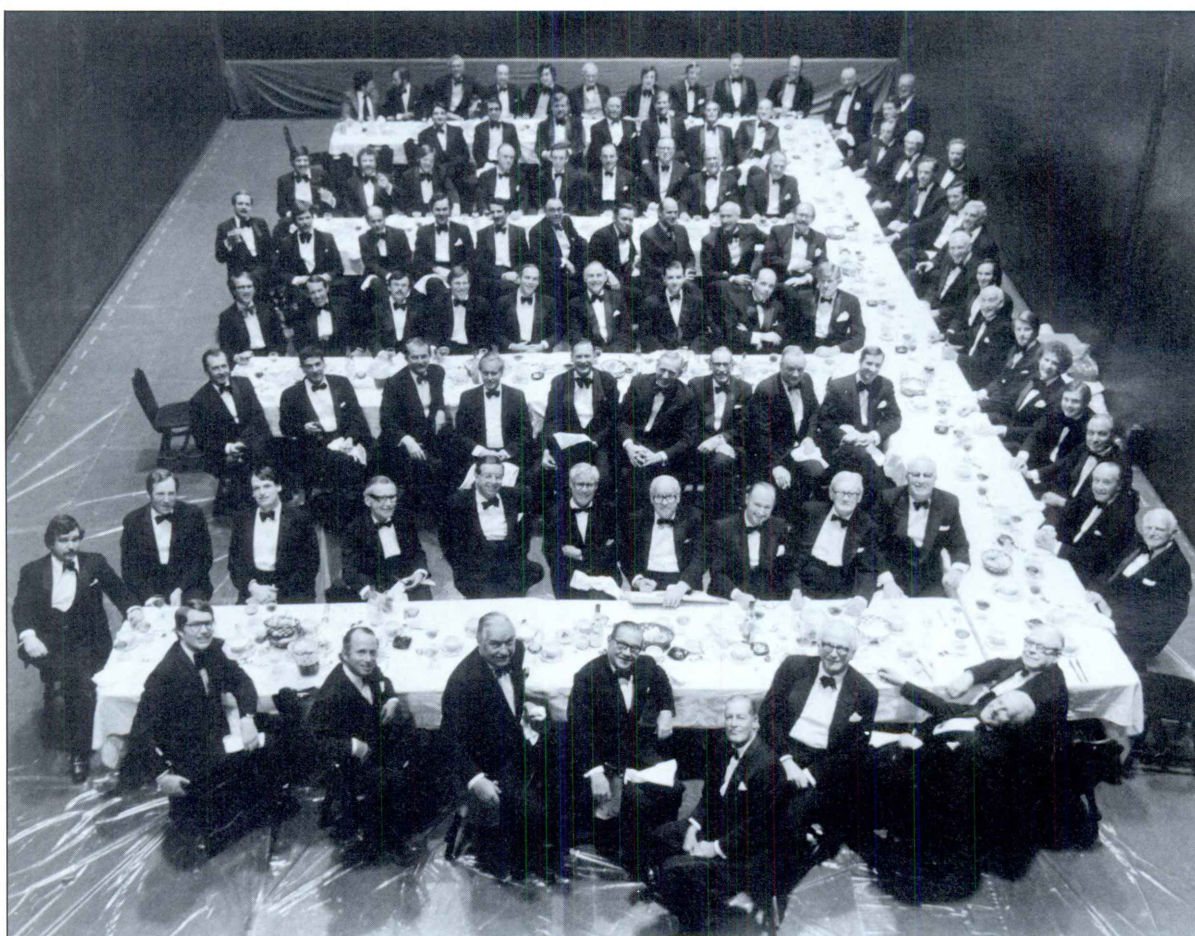
- First round matches
- Buffet Dinner 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 28th

- Second and third round matches
- Dinner Dance
- Black Tie - Ritz Carlton Hotel - 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 29th

- Final matches and prizegiving
- Buffet luncheon
- Black Watch Armoury - 1:00 p.m.



KEN CHANTLER TESTIMONIAL DINNER

January 27, 1978

(Front row, left to right) T. Jackson, G. Nesbitt, J.W. Sharp, H. de M. Molson, H.W. Davis, P.M. Laing, P.H. Robb, E.T. Cleveland
 (Second row) J.F. Baillie, R.M. Hart, R. Brickley (BOS), D.M. Rankin, J.V. Kerrigan, D. Doheny, G. Brakely, C.E. Pacaud, L.W. Haslett, D.R. McMaster
 (Third row) H.M. Rees, E.M. Ballon, A.D. McCall, D.W. Taylor, C.A. Gordon, F. Rolph, T.A.G. Moore, D.C. Barwick, R.L. Cooper
 (Fourth row) D.I. McNeill, J.F. Louson, P. Forbes (BOS), D. McEntyre, N. Gardner (NYC), J. Hale, T.J. Wagg, I.B. Campbell, P. Stoker
 (Fifth row) G. Bush, M. Marks, D. Reynolds, P. Nobbs, F. Hughes (BOS), C.D. French, L. Carr-Harris, M. Price, A.B. Purvis, D.C. McKay
 (Sixth row) C. Marks, S. Cochrane, J.D. Baillie, A. Speirs, S. Hersch, D.D. Creighton, W.I. Turner, P. Rider, J.N. Morton
 (Seventh row) D. Walsh (BOS), G. Milne, W. Minot (BOS), H.W. Price, C.T.M. Pugh (UK), C. Libby (BOS), D. Hamlin (BOS)
 (Eighth row) J. Pang, J. Morgan, H.L. Price, R.A. Hope, R. Sutton (UK), J.A. Rolland, W. Boone (UK), G. Church (BOS), R. Lightfine (CHI), R. Sears (BOS)
 (Right side, from back to front) D.J. Black, C. Frank (CHI), D.N. Stoker, A.C. McKim, L.P. Beaubien, M.R. McMaster, P. Stockton (BOS), N. Read (NYC), T.E. Price, K. Chantler, M.G. Huband, H.C. MacDougall, C. Hue Williams (UK), C.H. Pickwood, D. McLernon, C. Stockton, S.H. Dobell, J.H. Price

Kenneth Chantler

The year was Nineteen Ten,
We salute it with a cheer:
Britannia ruled the waves,
And young Kenneth did appear.

King Edward had just died,
He'd had a very massive figure;
Poor Mrs. Chantler never dreamed
Her Kenneth would be bigger.

He was talking straight away,
And at birth let out a roar:
"Here I am, you lucky chaps,
And love-all is the score".

He went to nursery school,
He was the biggest in the class;
And won the prize for being the best
At fooling in the grass.

The child was good at sports,
He excelled at chasing dames,
And always seemed to be on top,
In their charming little games!

He went to Hertford School,
And never found it boring,
And won at every game he played,
'Cause he supervised the scoring.

He always won at boxing,
But it was really meant to be;
He not only had a super left,
But he'd bought the referee.

His father helped young Ken in games,
He supervised his cricket;
With Dad in charge of calling play,
It sure protects the wicket!

Ken also starred in Rugby,
He was a tiger in the scrum;
And if some guy got dirty,
He'd eliminate the bum.

But Rackets was his special game
Where his clever innate guile,
Permitted him to compensate
For his rather awkward style.

He was master of the volley,
He quite controlled the walls,
And really never had a peer
In the placing of his balls.

The men all loved his dashing play,
He was agile as a fox;
And every girl was simply thrilled,
When he moved into the box.

They said in R.N. wardrooms
That the famous Royal Marines,
Could never shoot as fast or well
As Kenneth did at Queen's.

And so it was in '29,
Ken was offered the position,
As Professional of this ancient club,
And part of its tradition.

He tells us how to play the ball,
And dominates our lives,
And if that really weren't enough,
He quite enthrals our wives.

He marks our games with perfect skill,
And he livens up the score,
With some charming British phrases
That we'd never heard before.

He used to star in squash,
But he doesn't any more;
He no longer has the special skills
To get in the little door.

But he's still a star in Rackets,
And it's very clear to tell,
That there's not a pro around
Who can play it half as well.

He wears his cricket longs,
And perhaps you wonder why:
He wants the zipper extra long,
For hitting on the fly.

His serve is something fierce,
His return is better yet,
And if he gets a testing shot
He gives himself a Let!

We couldn't have a better pro,
For we're all inclined to thinking,
That while he beats us on the court,
We can handle him in drinking.

Ken's played the best in all the world,
He almost beat Jim Dear;
He had match point a dozen times,
And he's champion with us here.

And so it was three years ago,
On a night we'll all remember,
We honoured Ken for what he is,
A Very Honoured Member.

The Club is but its members,
And we'd like to make it clear,
That Ken is very special
With the fellows that are here.

Edward M. Ballon
29th May, 1980



*(Above) Ken Chantler
Over fifty years of service
at the Montreal Racket Club*

*(Left) Poem for Ken Chantler
by new Poet Laureate, Ed Ballon*

The dinner was a grand event, with over ninety guests paying tribute to Chantler's half-century of service at the Montreal Racket Club. One of Chantler's gifts, a set of golf clubs, was particularly welcome, for he now looked forward to finally having the time to enjoy his second favourite sport. Leisure days and retirement were short-lived for Chantler, however, as evidenced in the minute book entry of September 6, 1978:

. . . Jack Pang has left the Club after some confusion regarding his whereabouts and intentions. A letter of resignation was ultimately received. Ken has agreed to fill in.

Ken Chantler, back in whites after his second retirement as professional, was able to fulfil his duties with the generous assistance of several "A" players who ran clinics on a weekly basis. It would be several more years before a new professional was hired.

In a letter to the membership on the subject of his retirement as president in 1978, Michael "Rat" Huband opened with the following comments:

As I look back over the past two years, I cannot help being somewhat overwhelmed by the impact of my "leadership": two pros and some forty members left during this time. Pondering this record, I can reach only two conclusions: it is high time I stepped down; and, only an institution with the high spirit and cohesiveness of the Montreal Racket Club could have suffered such blows and survived as healthily as it has, for anyone who goes there regularly can attest to the continued high levels of activity and participation.

In 1980, the club celebrated the 75th Canadian Championship. From the first tournament held on Concord Street in 1896, with a draw of only three players – Rolland, MacTier, and Miller – to an event with a singles draw consisting of forty-eight of the world's top players including two World Champions, the sport had experienced a magnificent evolution in Montreal.

The Canadian Championship was now an important fixture on the international circuit. Young, hard-hitting Englishmen,



*The Montreal Racket Club
cordially invites you to attend*

*The 75th Annual
Canadian Amateur Rackets Championship
at Montreal
on January 24 - 27, 1980*



STORY-TELLERS OF THE 1980's



(Top) John Alexander

(Centre left) Ed Ballon

(Above) Charles Alexander

(Left) "Squire" McKay



*(Top right) Serious Chouette
(Left to right) P. Seabrook,
R. Crawley, W. Boone, R. Sutton,
D. Barwick, D. Nelson, S. Owen,
B. Campbell*

*(Top left) (Left to right) Phil Robb,
Frank McGill, Toby Cleveland*

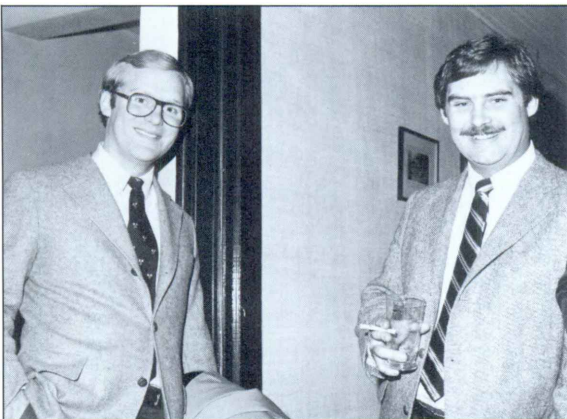
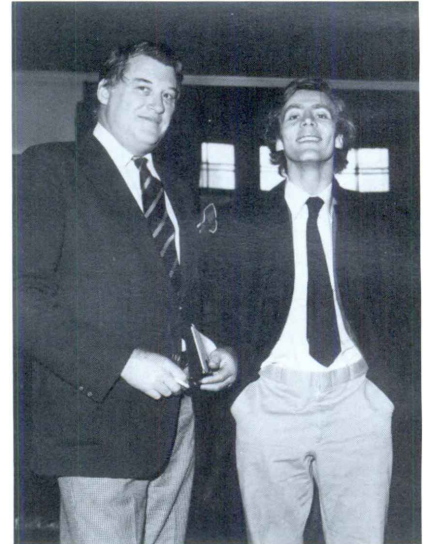
*(Centre) (Left to right) F. Baillie,
T. Pugh, C. Green, R. Bonsor,
G. Milne, A. Beeson*

disciplined in the finer traditions of the game, sparred in Montreal. This tournament had become a rich training ground for future champions.

Willie Boone, hungry for revenge for his 1979 loss in the World Championship to Willie Surtees, arrived in Montreal in January 1980 in peak condition. John Prenn, another contender for the right to challenge the World Champion, was also playing some of his best rackets. The 1980 Canadian Championship was a classic final between Boone and Prenn, with Boone finally overpowering Prenn three game to two. The scores were 15-10, 15-6, 16-17, 2-15, 15-8.

Two memorable incidents occurred during this 1980 championship. The first was a near-fatal accident which occurred during the final match. Willie Boone, who was crushing the ball in those days, hit a particularly hard volley that rebounded off the front wall with such velocity that it shot into the gallery before anyone could react. The unfortunate recipient of the bullet, Paul Rider, took Boone's drive square in the eye. He was wearing glasses at the time which shattered, spraying glass all over the court. Miraculously, Rider was neither cut nor otherwise injured, but a quick cognac was required to steady his nerves.

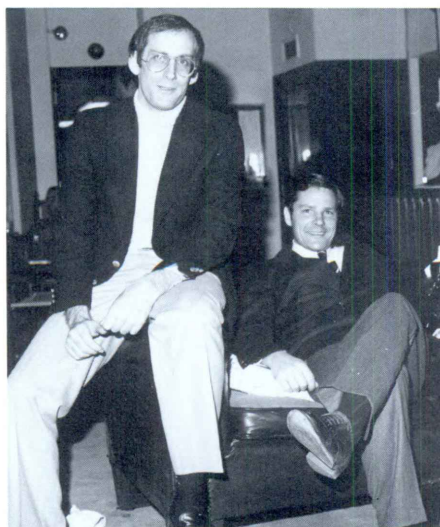
Boone further recalls this match as a psychological conquest over his arch-rival, John Prenn. Willie amusingly recounts that he arrived at the club in his dinner jacket only minutes before the start of the Sunday morning final. John, looking much fresher, had perhaps passed up late-night dancing at the Ritz. Boone was clearly well-coached in the Canadian custom of allowing equal priority to both social and athletic endeavours.



(Top) Des Stoker and Randall Crawley

(Centre left) John and Joe O'Brien from Detroit

(Centre right) Black Watch Armoury (Left to right) Mike McMaster, Tom Price, the pipers, "Jake" Sharp



(Bottom) Chuck Libby and Devy Hamlin from Boston

The year 1981 was a banner one for the club. The most prolific player the club has ever produced was to repeat a victory not accomplished in eighty-three years. David McLernon, who, up until 1981, had won four Canadian Singles and ten Club Singles titles, entered the United States National Rackets Singles Championship in Boston. His decisive victory over Englishman Robert Sutton in the final established him in the record book, along with F.F. Rolland, as one of only two Canadians to have won this prestigious championship.

In 1985, McLernon was again victorious in the U.S. Championship when he beat his old arch-rival, Willie Surtees, by the scores of 15-12, 15-5, 17-15. McLernon, possessing rare inner drive, has now won the U.S. Championship four times. His winning-streak in Club Singles tournaments currently stands at nineteen straight victories.

(Left) United States National Singles Draw, 1981

(Right) Invitation to the David McLernon dinner

EVENT U. S. National Rackets Singles		
CLUB	Boston	
NUMBER OF ENTRIES	28	DATE January 23-25, 1981
1 D. McLernon	McLernon	15/2, 15/7
2 BYE	McLernon	15/2, 15/7
3 J. Cannon	Hamilton	17/5, 15/3
4 D. Hamilton	Hamilton	15/2, 15/7
5 C. Whittington	Ronaldson	15/2, 15/7
6 C. Ronaldson	Ronaldson	15/2, 15/7
7 E. Bailey	Pell	15/2, 15/7
8 C. C. Pell	DEF.	15/2, 15/7
9 E. L. Brickley, Jr.	Brickley	15/2, 15/7
10 R. Cooper	Brickley	15/2, 15/7
11 M. Huband	Huband	15/2, 15/7
12 A. Jensen	Huband	15/2, 15/7
13 A. Prens	Prens	15/2, 15/7
14 H. Wheelwright	MacGuire	15/2, 15/7
15 BYE	MacGuire	15/2, 15/7
16 K. MacGuire	MacGuire	15/2, 15/7
17 M. McMaster	McMasters	15/2, 15/7
18 BYE	McMasters	15/2, 15/7
19 P. Stockton	Stockton	15/2, 15/7
20 S. Aldrich	DEF.	15/2, 15/7
21 K. Graetzer	Hamlen	15/2, 15/7
22 D. Hamlen	Hamlen	15/2, 15/7
23 P. Forbes	Read	15/2, 15/7
24 P. Read	Read	15/2, 15/7
25 N. Gardiner	Gardiner	15/2, 15/7
26 D. Lightfin	Libby	15/2, 15/7
27 C. Libby	Libby	15/2, 15/7
28 E. Matthews	Libby	15/2, 15/7
29 D. Walsh	Davis	15/2, 15/7
30 H. Davies	Davis	15/2, 15/7
31 BYE	Sutton	15/2, 15/7
32 R. Sutton	Sutton	15/2, 15/7



3 March 1982

Dear Member:

To honor one of our most proficient fellow members in Club history, you are cordially invited to attend an evening for David McLernon, April 1, 1982.

Of particular note in David's long list of Racket achievements is the fact that he won the U.S. Singles Championship last year in Detroit, thus becoming the first Canadian player to do so since Mr. F.F. Rolland in 1898.

We urge all members and guests to reflect on a particular McLernon moment past or present that we all can share. We are also open to other roast & toast suggestions.

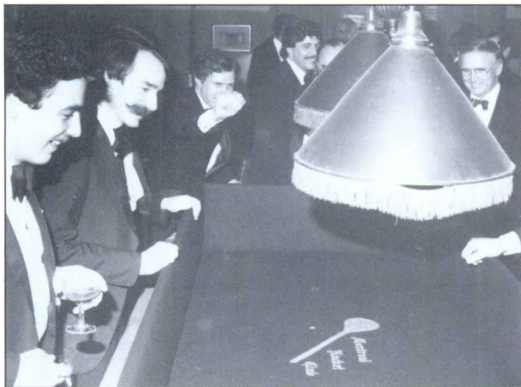
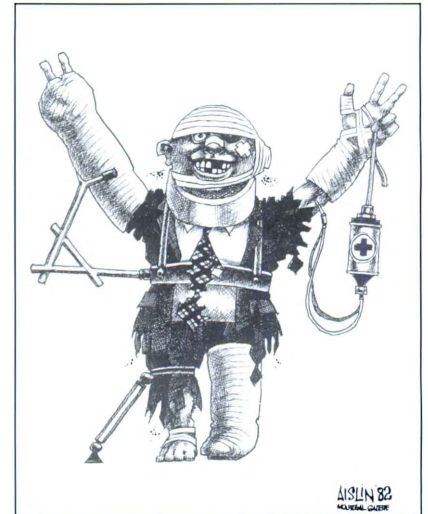
We look forward to seeing you and at the same time remind you of the importance of replying before March 26.

On behalf of the Board,


Timothy J. Wagg
President

DATE : April 1, 1982
PLACE : Montreal Racket Club,
396 Concord Street, Montreal
TIME : 7:00 P.M.
DRESS : Black Tie

R.S.V.P. Joe Kling (514) 849-3697

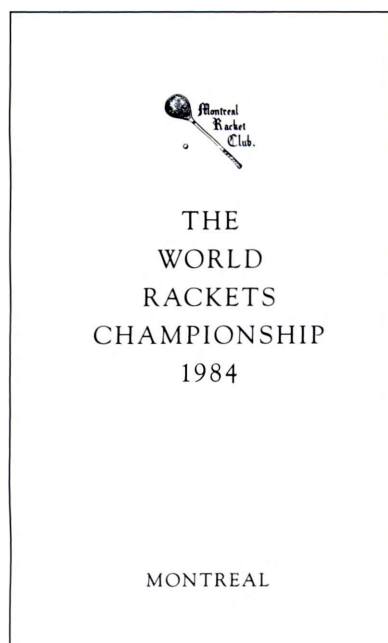


(Top) The author presents David McLernon with a cartoon of the battered warrior

(Centre left) (Left to right) J. MacDougall, B. Barwick, D.H. McLernon, C.G. Marks, L.C. Webster

(Centre right) (Left to right) R. Kaulbach, B. Hemmingson, F. Baillie, R. Hart, D. McNeill

(Bottom) (Left to right) D. McLernon, J. Morton, C. Pickwood, J. Rolland



In 1984, the Montreal Racket Club was again chosen as the battleground of the first leg of the World Championship. This was a important honour for the Montreal Racket Club as it had not hosted a World Championship since Ken Chantler challenged Jimmy Dear in 1947.

The title is decided in two legs, each leg consisting of the best of seven games. According to convention, the World titleholder can select the court in which the first leg is to be held. Defending champion, John Prenn, who had taken the title in 1981 from Willie Surtees, had played with great success in the Montreal court. Challenger, Willie Boone, had won both the British Amateur and British Open Championship. The match had originally been scheduled for early 1984; however, due to a chronic back injury, John Prenn had postponed the date until November.

For the ten days prior to the match, the club was an exciting place to visit. Champion and challenger were each accompanied by an entourage of coaches, trainers, and well-wishers. Fans were treated to some incredible sparring matches during Boone's and Prenn's daily practice sessions.

All was set for the contest. Seats had been sold at a premium, and a closed-circuit television system had been installed in the President's Lounge to accommodate the over-capacity crowd.

Willie Boone was in awesome form. His brutal service and consistently brilliant winners in the rallies quickly put him up three games to none. With the bi-partisan crowd calling, "Have



*The 1984 World Championship at Montreal
(Front row) Champion John Prenn and challenger Willie Boone
(Back row) D. McLernon, G. Milne, K. Chantler, T. Price*

1st Leg—MONTREAL—24 NOVEMBER 1984
by Andrew Beeson

The first leg of the World Championship in Montreal last Saturday produced one of the most exciting sporting spectacles for those lucky enough to have witnessed it. Both John Prens and Willie Boone showed the gallery that they are without doubt two of the most talented players that the game has ever seen. Boone started in full cry winning the first two games relatively easily. In the third Prens led 11-5 and there were signs that he was beginning to regain his wonderful touches of two years ago, but Boone fought back to lead 3-0. At the beginning of the fourth game Prens hit three wonderful winners—a cross court kill, one down the forehand sidewall and one boast; instead of going backwards he was moving forward and we knew that he was to make a match of it. It was towards the end of this game, which Prens won, that the sweat from the players and the change of temperature caused the floor to become slippery. This was to result in an hour's break after the fifth game. In addition Boone clearly had become somewhat anxious and started to overhit the ball round the walls. Prens had clawed his way back from the dead on winning the fifth game 15-11. Boone was rattled and it was probably to his advantage that play had to be stopped. The beginning of the sixth game produced some of the finest rackets ever seen. Neither player giving an inch, but Boone's power eventually allowed him to break away from 6 all to win the first leg by 4-2. Prens had not taken a game off Boone since the British Open in 1983 so, in the circumstances, he has regained some of the psychological advantage that was clearly in Boone's favour. Both players have all to play for at Queen's and it would be a brave man to forecast the outcome.

W. Boone leads J. Prens 4-2 (15-10, 15-2, 15-11, 11-15, 11-15, 15-7) and by 22 points (82-60).

To win the World Championship Boone has to win 3 games and Prens has to win this second leg by 4-1 or 4-0 to retain his title. If Prens wins by 4-2 he has to do so with a margin of at least 22 points.

It is possible that the Championship could be decided without playing a full best of 7-game match. There is a prize of two Salamanazars of champagne for this leg and therefore the gallery will be guaranteed a full best of 7-game match.

JOHN PRENN—aged 31 *World Champion*

Educated at Harrow School (Captain of Squash and Tennis) where he started playing rackets at the age of 13, coached by Roger Crosby. He won the Public Schools Rackets Doubles Championships in 1971 with Mark Thatcher (Captain of Rackets and No. 1) and, on leaving Harrow, played for three years on the international Tennis circuit without much success! He was in the British top twenty and captained England in a minor international against Wales.

His first major rackets success as a singles player was to win the Under 24 Championships in 1974, which gave him the enthusiasm to play the sport seriously. He went on to win that Tournament three years running, the British Amateur Championships in 1979, 1980, 1982 and 1983, the British Open Championships in 1977, 1980, 1981 and 1982 and 1983. Other titles held include the US Open Singles in 1980, the Canadian Amateur Singles in 1979, 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984.

He qualified for the 1981 World Championship Challenge by winning the British Open and Amateur Championships and the US Open in 1980 and went on to win the World Championship from Willie Surtees in December 1981. He was due to defend his title in the 1983/84 season but had to postpone the match until November 1984 because of a persistent back injury.

He plays rackets as an Amateur and is Chairman of Bonsoir of London Limited—the world famous makers of pyjamas and dressing gowns.

WILLIE BOONE—aged 34 *Challenger*

Educated at Eton where he first played rackets, winning the Junior and Senior Public Schools Doubles with Mark Faber.

After qualifying as a Chartered Surveyor at Reading University he worked in London, which enabled him to play rackets, amongst other sports, at The Queen's Club. His first national rackets title was the British Amateur Singles in 1976, and he has been in every Amateur Singles Final since then, winning again in 1978/81/84. Other Singles titles include the British Open Singles title, the Manchester Gold Racket (6 times), Canadian Amateur, US Amateur, US Open; he also challenged Willie Surtees for the World title in 1979.

In doubles he has won the British Amateur Doubles 8 times, the British Open Doubles 4 times, the World Open Doubles, the Canadian Amateur Doubles 4 times, the US Amateur Doubles twice, the US Open Doubles twice.

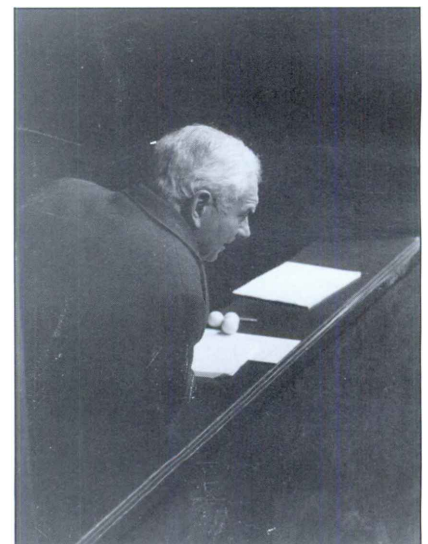
Achievements in other sports include being ranked in the top twenty British Amateur Squash Players; he plays lawn tennis for his county and reached the semi-final of the British Amateur Real Tennis Singles in 1984. Other hobbies include shooting, fishing, skiing and gardening.

He currently works as Sales Manager for a sports distributing company whose products include Prince tennis rackets. He is married and lives in London with his wife, Alison, and has a two month old daughter Rosanna.

him out'' or ''Serve up,'' Prens fought back in the fourth game to win 15-11. His game was steadily strengthening, and he won again in the fifth by the same score.

There was now a problem that had likely not occurred in rackets since the 1896 championship match between Miller and Rolland. The weather would affect the match. For several days leading up to the match, the temperature in Montreal had been exceedingly cold. On November 24, the day of the match, the thermometer rose by some forty degrees. This had a devastating effect on the court walls and floor which began to sweat due to the high humidity. The footing became treacherous, and on several occasions, both players took nasty slips. The Match Committee decided to delay the contest while a brigade of volunteers spent over an hour towelling up the damp floor. When the match resumed, there was no doubt that Boone had benefitted more from the rest. He handily beat Prens by a score of 15-7. Boone had won the Canadian leg four games to two.

One week later in London, Willie Boone won the World Championship by defeating John Prens four games to one. Boone's title was to be short-lived, however, as Prens vindicated his loss by beating the champion in 1986 with a score of eight games to six.



Ken Chantler marking the Championship match

Coinciding with the World Championship in 1984 was the arrival of a new professional. Ken Chantler, who had so admirably filled in for seven additional years since the premature departure of Jack Pang, was once again retired. His replacement was a young American named Dan Rooney, who had worked at the New York Tennis & Racquet Club during the 1980's. Rooney contributed to the resurgence of the game by involving new and younger players, and is remembered for his skills in the squash court.

After the sudden and sad loss of the chief steward, Joe Kling, the club hired a new couple in the summer of 1984 to serve drinks and meals to the members. Henry and Irene Hartley provided the club with five years of excellent service until the untimely death of Henry in 1989.

The highlight of the Hartleys' tenure was the House Committee's introduction of the Game Dinner which has become an annual fall event and fund-raiser for the club. Each November, headed by Ron Kaulbach, the hunting and fishing members donate from their freezers the finest assortment of fish, fowl, and game. Plenty of Black Velvets, wine, and port assist in the digestion of the heavily-sauced bear, caribou, moose, and buckshot.

*(Below left) Dan Rooney (left)
with John Prenn*

*(Below right) Henry Hartley,
club steward, with president
Richard Cooper in 1984*





In 1987, thanks to strong overseas ties that had been established over the past decade, the club entertained a group of young students from Eton College who were on a North American tour. These young rackets stars, under the fine coaching of Norwood Cripps, soundly routed their Canadian hosts. The off-court results were equally spectacular, with many of Montreal's favourite nighttime haunts being included on the agenda. Regrettably, some of the shorter schoolboys were politely refused entrance to some of Montreal's finer establishments.

(Top) Andrew Parsons delivers a "classic" at the Game Dinner

(Left) Gordie Glass and Karel Nemec – 1988 Marker's Choice Award winners

(Right) An unexpected visitor at the front door of Concord Street

1988

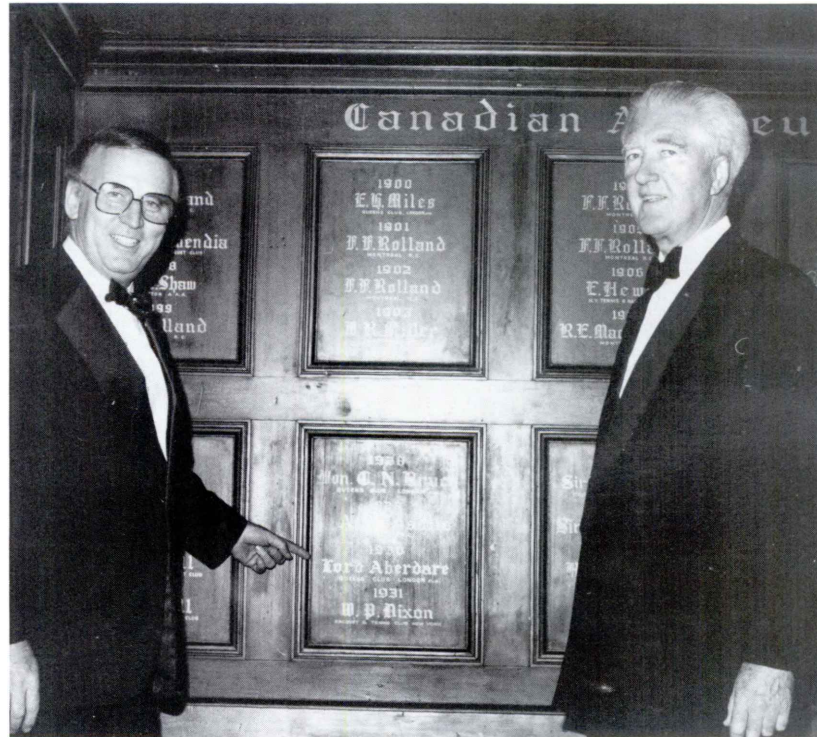


(Above) In 1988, students from Eton College travelled to Montreal to challenge the local members at rackets

(Opposite top) A special dinner was held at the club for Lord Aberdare during his 1981 visit. His father had won the Canadian Singles and Doubles Championships in 1930. Lorne Webster points out the Singles Champions panel to Lord Aberdare.

(Opposite bottom) (Left to right) Lorne Webster, Michael Marks, Jim Morton, Don McKay, Tim Wagg, Lord Aberdare, John Rolland, Mike McMaster, and Ken Chantler pose for Michael Huband, the photographer

1981



(Below left) The 1989-1990 Board of Directors: all smiles just days before the furnace died

(Left to right) Johan Bjurstrom, Doug Reynolds, Scott Pritchard, Rick Hart, Tim Price, Ron Kaulbach, Blair Barwick (Gordie Usher-Jones absent)

(Below right) The temperature in the sauna after the pipes froze was -30 degrees. Enjoying the heat wave were (left to right) Doug Reynolds, Ken Chantler, Brian Price, and the plumber

(Bottom) Ice from the roof of the rackets court scores a perfect hit

In 1989, almost one hundred years to the day of the official opening of the Concord Street club, the clubhouse suffered a terrific physical blow. During the Christmas holiday week-end, the temperature dropped to a record -40 degrees celsius. With no one at the club when the furnace broke down, the hot water in the heating system soon froze solid. Eventually, all of the radiators, from the third-floor apartment to the basement, exploded, spraying one hundred-year-old black liquid throughout the clubhouse.

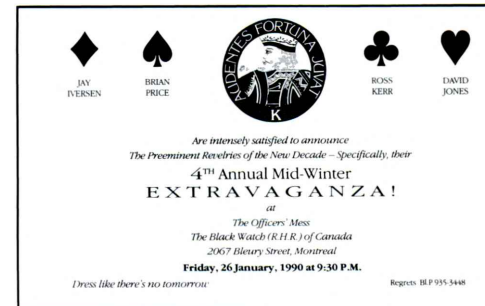
With ice crystals forming on the court walls and floor, and near-perfect skating conditions in the dining room, the directors hastily organized meetings in the sauna to deal with the crisis. The real problems, however, started when the furnace was refired and the pipes began to thaw. Blair Barwick, the House Committee member who headed the disaster team, recalls standing in the gallery of the rackets court in sub-zero temperatures, watching a twenty-foot jet of water crystallize as it fell to the rackets court floor.



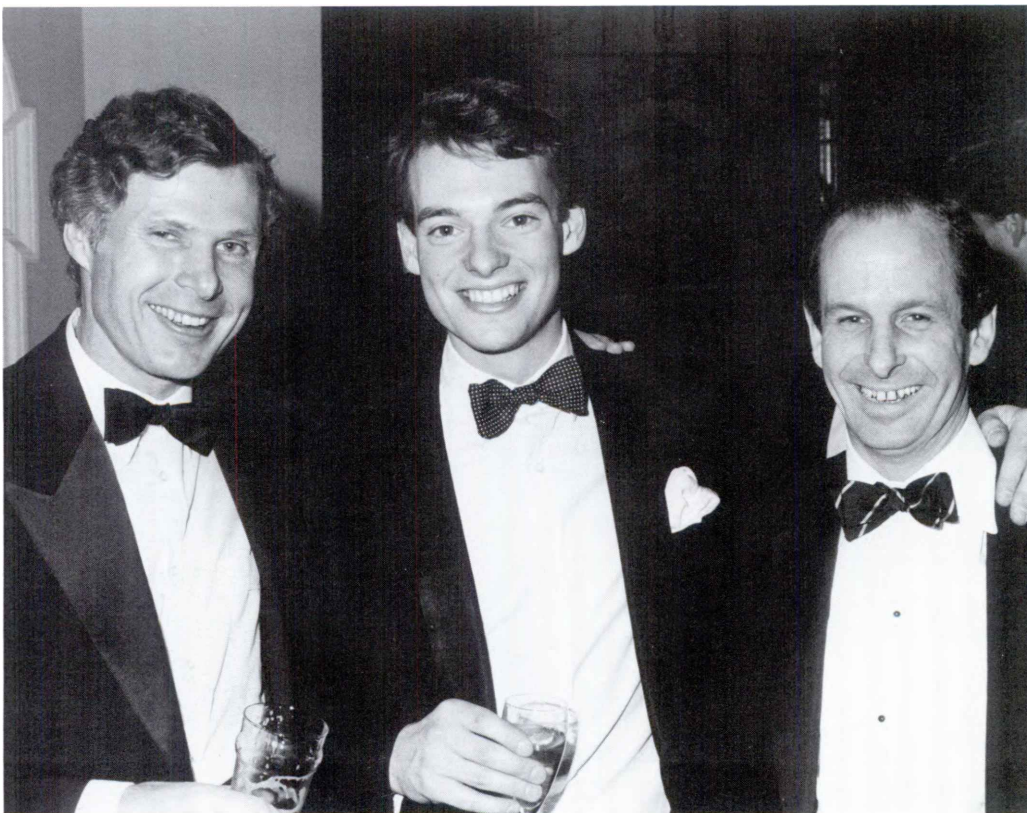
Earlier that year, at the 1989 fall annual meeting, the board had received the approval from the membership to proceed with a major capital campaign. Funds were reserved for long overdue repairs to the club's heating and electrical systems, and for the complete renovation of the windows and roof. The demise of the original furnace had, at least, coincided perfectly with the 1990 repair timetable.

As the decade came to a close, the Canadian Championship remained the most popular event on the North American tournament circuit. Each year, the quality of rackets and the camaraderie of the rackets-playing fraternity reached new levels of excellence.

In the 1990 semi-final, David McLernon won against another perennial finalist, John Prenn, but proved to be no match for the two-handed James Male in the finals. Current World Champion, James Male, who defeated Willie Boone in 1988, has now won the Canadian Singles Championship for four straight years – 1987, 1988, 1989, and 1990.

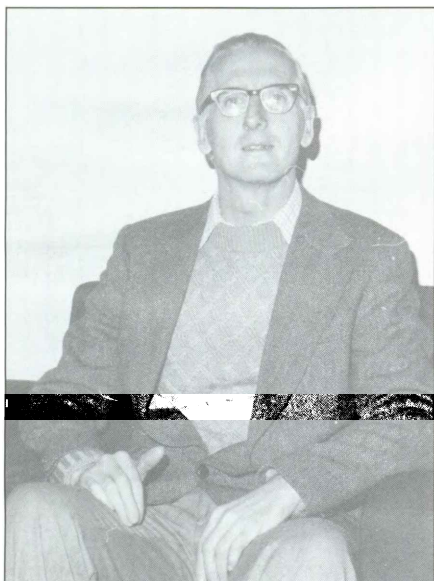


An invitation to the Iverson, Price, Kerr, Jones annual bash at the Black Watch Armoury held during the Canadian Championship week-end



David McLernon, four-time Canadian Singles Champion and eighteen-time Club Champion, with James Male, the current World Champion and four-time Canadian Champion, and Michael "Rat" Huband, 1978 Club Junior Champion

RACKETS IN CANADA

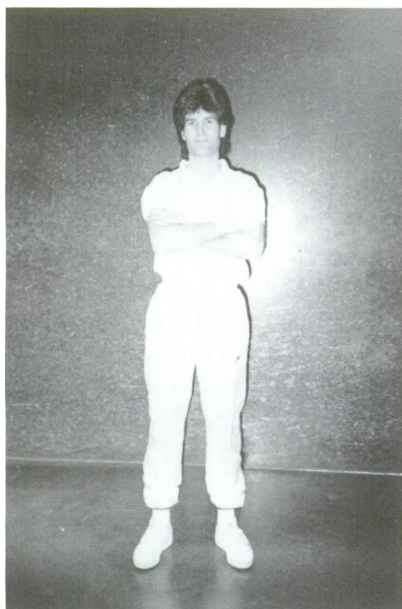


(Above) Gordie Simpson



(Above right) Nerve centre of the club located in Gordie's room

(Right) Author and Ken Chantler

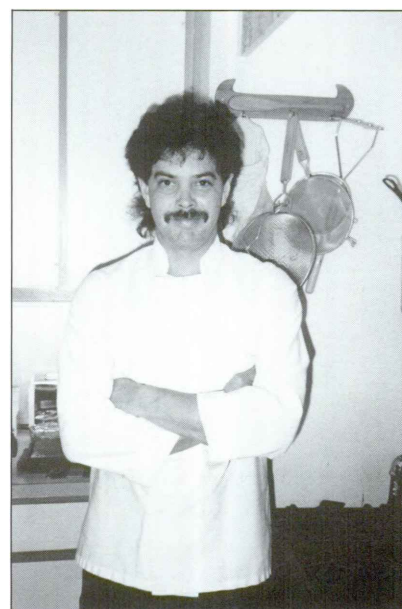


(Above) Professional Steve Tulley

*(Bottom centre) Club steward
Leo Richter*



(Bottom right) Chef Mario Cress



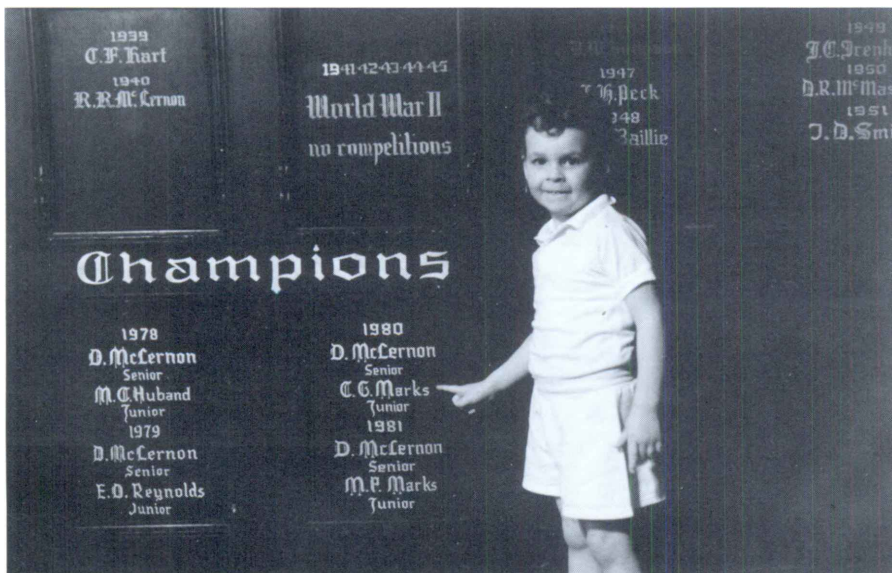


Fathers and Sons – 1990

*(Left to right)
Peter Johnson and Patrick;
Christopher Marks and Nicholas;
Peter Morton and Geoffrey;
Phil Dixon and Taylor*

Future Canadian Champions

*(Left to right) Taylor Dixon;
Geoffrey Morton; club professional,
Steve Tulley; Nicholas Marks;
Patrick Johnson*



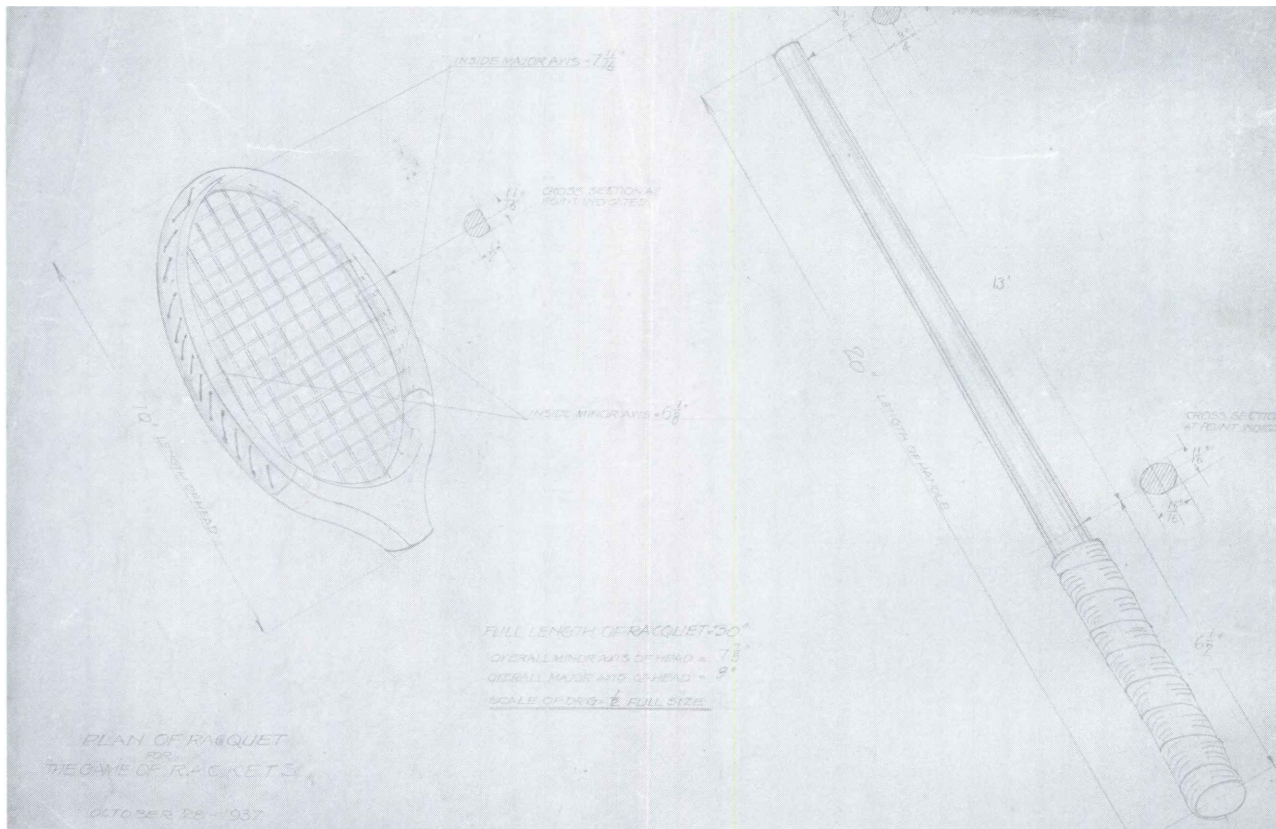
*Author's son predicts
he will repeat his father's victory
by 2015*

**THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
MAY 1990**

In celebration of its 100th year on Concord Street, the Centennial Committee has been formed and mandated to organize a week-long sporting competition. The month of May 1990 has been chosen for this tournament. Two teams – the Square Milers and the Garrison – will be formed, comprised of rackets players from Canada, England, and the United States. The teams will compete in tennis, squash, golf, and rackets.

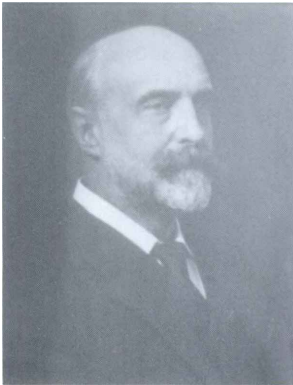
Several important social events have also been scheduled during the week to honour the occasion including a black-tie stag dinner in the rackets court. Twenty-four past presidents of this illustrious club have been invited to join current president, Richard Hart, at the head table.

APPENDICES



MONTREAL RACKET CLUB

PRESIDENTS



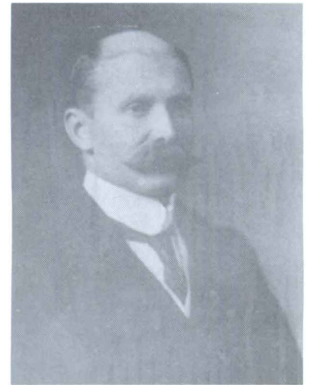
E.S. Clouston
1886-93



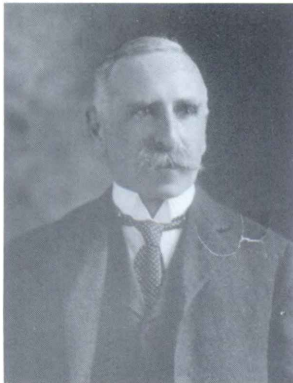
A.A. Allan
1893-95



W.R. Miller
1895-96; 1900-01



H. Montagu Allan
1896-97



R.T. Heneker
1897-98



G. Gillespie
1898-99; 1901-03



F.E. Meredith
1899-1900



G.R. Hooper
1903-04

RACKETS IN CANADA



A.R. McKim
1904-05



F.W. Ashe
1905-06



G.W. MacDougall
1906-07



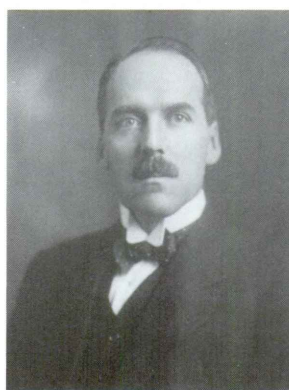
F.F. Rolland
1907-08; 1915-16



H. Molson
1908-09



R.E. MacDougall
1909-10



J.K.L. Ross
1910-11



H. Hamilton Gault
1911-12



D.A. Hingston
1912-13



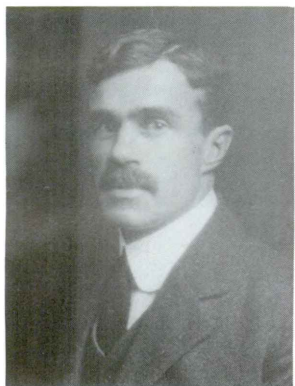
A.B. Evans
1913-14



D.J. Barker
1914-15



A.E. Abbott
1916-17



K. Molson
1917-18



P. MacKenzie
1918-20



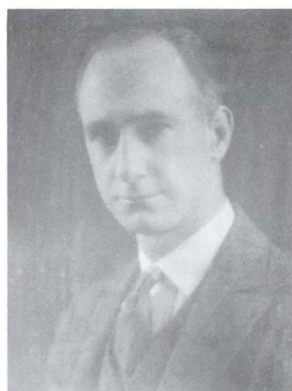
H.H. Vaughan
1920-21



A.F. Mitchell
1921-22



R.N. Hickson
1922-23



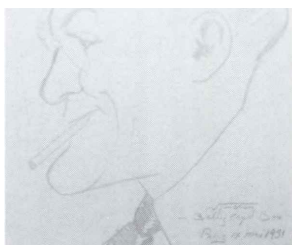
W.A. Wilson
1923-24



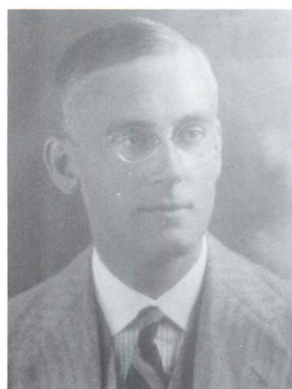
G.C. McDonald
1924-25



K.F. Gilmour
1925-26



A.R. Chipman
1926-27



W.R. Creighton
1927-28



A.S. Cassils
1928-29



F.C. Dobell
1929-30



G.S. Currie
1930-31



D.J. O'Donahoe
1931-32



S.H. Dobell
1932-33



W. Miller
1933-34



B. Russel
1934-35



J.F. Savage
1935-36



H.C. MacDougall
1936-37



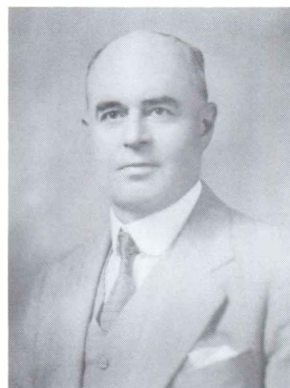
A.J. Hills
1937-38



G.D. Huband
1938-39



C.G. Benson
1939-40



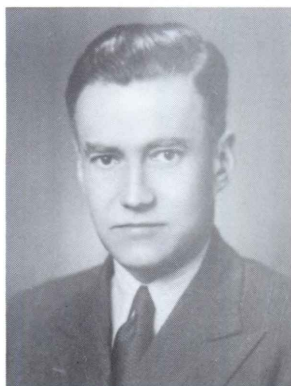
H.D. Kingstone
1940-41



S.W. Watson
1941-43



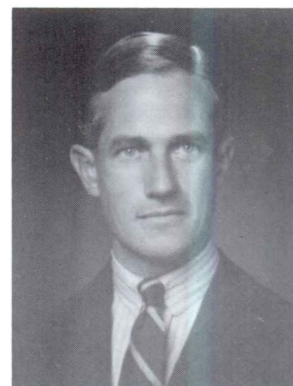
F.A. Reid
1943-44



H.G. Lafleur
1944-45



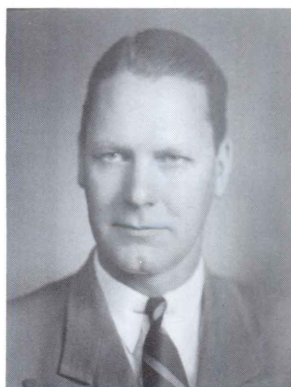
E.G. Smith
1945-46



L.P. Beaubien
1946-47



N.L.C. Mather
1947-48



R.R. McLernon
1948-49



H.W. Davis
1949-50



J.A. Rolland
1950-51



D.J. Black
1951-52



A.C. McKim
1952-53



J.C. Cushing
1953-54



D.R. McMaster
1954-55



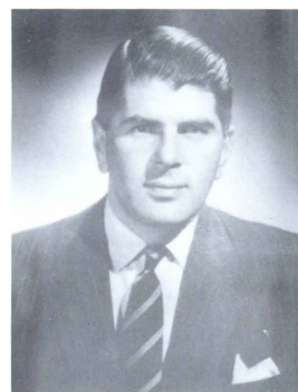
T.C. Brainerd
1955-56



P.M. Laing
1955-56



G.C. Savage
1956-57



J.N. Morton
1957-58



M.F. Nicholson
1958-59



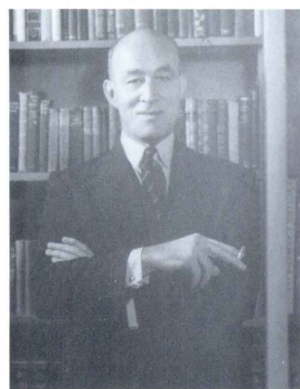
C.E. Pacaud
1959-60



J.W. Sharp
1960-61



J.V. Kerrigan
1961-62



S.B. Millen
1962-63



D. Doheny
1963-64



L.C. Webster
1964-66



P. Rider
1966-68



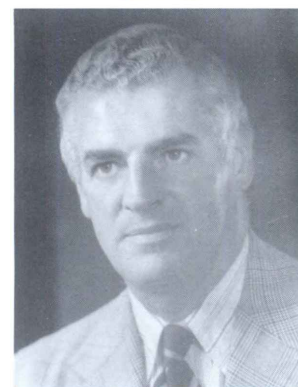
D.N. Stoker
1968-70



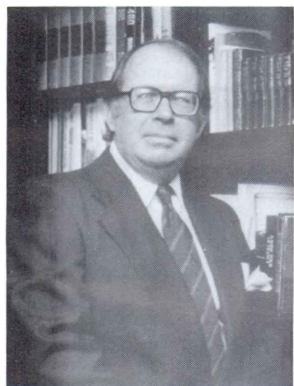
C.S. Alexander
1970-71



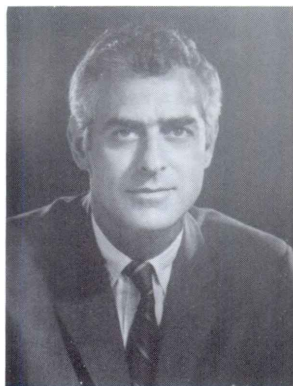
D.C. Barwick
1971-72



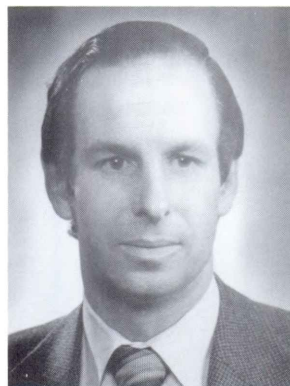
T.E. Price
1972-73



D.C. MacKay
1973-74



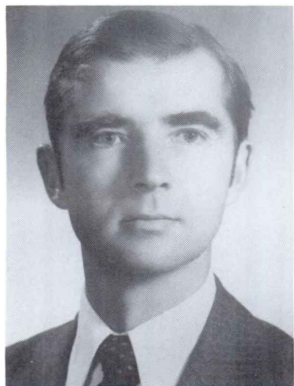
H.L. Price
1974-75



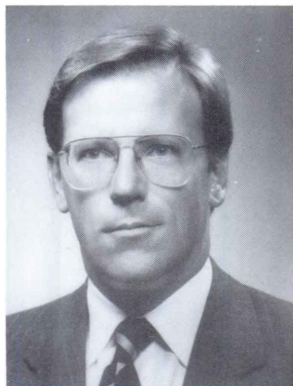
M.G. Huband
1976-78



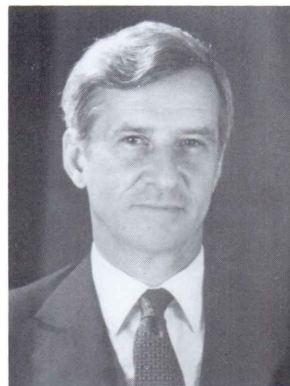
M.R. McMaster
1978-80



T.J. Wagg
1980-82



D. McEntyre
1982-84



R.L. Cooper
1984-86



D.H. McLernon
1986-88



R.M. Hart
1988-90

MRC SENIOR RACKETS CHAMPIONSHIP

YEAR	WINNER	RUNNER-UP	SCORES
1891	A.E. Abbott	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1892	A.E. Abbott	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1893	A.E. Abbott	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1894	F.F. Rolland	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1895	W.R. Miller	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1896	F.F. Rolland	W.R. Miller	4-15,17-16,18-15,14-17,15-13
1897	F.E. Meredith	F.F. Rolland	F.F. Rolland resigned leading
1898	F.F. Rolland	F.E. Meredith	Not Recorded
1899	F.F. Rolland	W.R. Miller	14-18,9-15,15-4,15-4,15-11
1900	F.F. Rolland	E.R. Applegath	15-4,15-11,15-8
1901	F.F. Rolland	W.R. Miller	18-15,15-4,15-8
1902	W.R. Miller	R.E. MacDougall	16-17,15-12,15-5,16-17,15-10
1903	R.E. MacDougall	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1904	W.R. Miller	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1905	E.J.M. Greenshields	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1906	E.J.M. Greenshields	T.S. Gillespie	15-10,15-5,15-9
1907	R.E. MacDougall	F.F. Rolland	9-15,15-11,15-9,15-11
1908	R.E. MacDougall	H. Molson	15-9,15-10,15-9
1909	H. Molson	N.F. Nash	15-10,15-12,15-3
1910	H.M. Smith	H. Molson	5-15,15-7,15-3,12-15,17-15
1911	F.F. Rolland	H.M. Smith	17-15,13-15,12-16,15-10,18-16
1912	A. Wilson	F.F. Rolland	By Default
1913	E. Greenshields Jr.	A. Wilson	15-9,15-10,15-11
1914	H.W. Smith	A. Wilson	9-15,18-13,15-6,15-9
1915	E. Greenshields Jr.	H.W. Smith	15-6,15-13,15-11
1916-1918	No Matches		
1919	A.S. Cassils	A. Wilson	15-10,15-9,13-15,15-7
1920	A.S. Cassils	A. Wilson	15-4,15-12,11-15,15-12
1921	A.S. Cassils	R.N. Hickson	8-15,15-4,15-5,15-10
1922	A.S. Cassils	A.R. Chipman	15-8,7-15,15-5,15-7 (played through tournament - no challenge round)
1923	A. Wilson	A.R. Chipman	3 Games to 1
1924	A.S. Cassils	A.R. Chipman	15-3,15-7,17-15
1925	A.S. Cassils	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1926	A.S. Cassils	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1927	A.S. Cassils	R.N. Hickson	15-10,15-5,8-15,15-6
1928	A.S. Cassils	F.C. Dobell	15-8,15-10,9-15,15-4
1929	A.S. Cassils	G.H. Turpin	Not Recorded
1930	A.S. Cassils	A.R. Chipman	Not Recorded
1931	S.H. Dobell	J.A. Rolland	15-6,15-4,15-6
1932	S.H. Dobell	J.A. Rolland	16-17,16-13,15-12,15-12
1933	J.F. Grant	A.S. Cassils	13-18,13-16,15-3,15-9,17-14
1934	J.A. Rolland	H.C. MacDougall	15-4,14-17,15-4,15-9
1935	J.A. Rolland	C.G. Benson	17-16,15-12,15-7
1936	J.A. Rolland	C.E. Pacaud	15-5,15-3,15-1
1937	J.A. Rolland	S.H. Dobell	15-7,8-15,15-9,15-2
1938	J.A. Rolland	R. St.L. Granville	17-16,17-15,6-15,16-14
1939	J.A. Rolland	R. St.L. Granville	15-10,16-17,15-3,14-17,18-17
1940	J.A. Rolland	C.E. Pacaud	15-6,8-15,15-11,15-9
1941-1945	No Matches		
1946	C.E. Pacaud	J.A. Rolland	15-8,8-15,15-12,15-7
1947	J.A. Rolland	J.V. Kerrigan	15-11,15-6,15-5
1948	J.A. Rolland	C.E. Pacaud	15-13,15-10,8-15,15-12
1949	J.A. Rolland	C.E. Pacaud	9-15,6-15,15-5,15-12,16-15
1950	C.E. Pacaud	J.A. Rolland	15-5,8-15,15-3,15-8

RACKETS IN CANADA

YEAR	WINNER	RUNNER-UP	SCORES
1951	J.A. Rolland	C.E. Pacaud	15-12,16-14,15-9
1952	J.A. Rolland	J.V. Kerrigan	15-12,15-9,17-14
1953	J.A. Rolland	J.C. Cushing	15-17,15-10,15-5,15-9
1954	J.V. Kerrigan	T.C. Trenholme	18-15,15-5,16-18,5-15,17-14
1955	C.E. Pacaud	T.E. Price	15-4,15-11,15-10
1956	C.E. Pacaud	T.E. Price	15-11,15-6,15-6
1957	C.E. Pacaud	T.C. Trenholme	15-3,15-9,15-8
1958	L.C. Webster	T.E. Price	16-14,9-15,8-15,15-7,15-8
1959	A.J. Lafleur	J.H. Hale	13-15,15-12,15-4,15-9
1960	R.M. Bailey	D.M. Norman	15-5,15-8,15-7
1961	C.E. Pacaud	A.J. Lafleur	15-9,15-5,7-15,12-15,15-5
1962	T.E. Price	T.J. Wagg	15-8,15-11,15-7
1963	R.M. Bailey	T.E. Price	2-15,9-15,15-10,15-8,15-11
1964	L.C. Webster	T.J. Wagg	15-11,2-15,15-10,11-15,15-13
1965	A.J. Lafleur	T.E. Price	15-7,15-9,16-13
1966	L.C. Webster	A.J. Lafleur	17-18,15-7,15-12,12-15,15-6
1967	T.J. Wagg	D.H. McLernon	15-12,15-10,12-15,15-9
1968	C.H. Pickwoad	D.H. McLernon	12-15,15-3,16-17,15-8,15-8
1969	D.H. McLernon	C.H. Pickwoad	Not Recorded
1970	D.H. McLernon	C.H. Pickwoad	15-2,15-12,15-12
1971	D.H. McLernon	A.J. Coote	15-6,18-14,15-3
1972	C.H. Pickwoad	D.H. McLernon	8-15,15-6,3-15,15-9,15-11
1973	C.H. Pickwoad	D.H. McLernon	3-15,15-5,7-15,15-7,18-16
1974	D.H. McLernon	C.H. Pickwoad	15-6,15-9,9-15,15-5
1975	D.H. McLernon	C.H. Pickwoad	17-18,15-8,15-9,7-15,15-6
1976	D.H. McLernon	C.H. Pickwoad	15-6,15-8,15-8
1977	D.H. McLernon	C.H. Pickwoad	8-15,17-14,15-11,15-5
1978	D.H. McLernon	T.J. Wagg	15-4,15-0,15-4
1979	D.H. McLernon	C.H. Pickwoad	15-2,15-8,18-16
1980	D.H. McLernon	C.H. Pickwoad	15-1,15-7,15-9
1981	D.H. McLernon	C.H. Pickwoad	15-5,15-8,15-13
1982	D.H. McLernon	D. McEntyre	15-9,15-1,15-7
1983	D.H. McLernon	C.H. Pickwoad	3 Games to 0
1984	D.H. McLernon	C.H. Pickwoad	15-8,9-15,15-4,15-11
1985	D.H. McLernon	R.M. Hart	Not Recorded
1986	D.H. McLernon	C.H. Pickwoad	15-3,15-1,15-6
1987	D.H. McLernon	T.J. Wagg	15-0,15-2,15-3
1988	D.H. McLernon	C.H. Pickwoad	15-12,15-5,17-14
1989	D.H. McLernon	B. Sambrook	15-6,15-0,15-10

MRC DOUBLES RACKETS CHAMPIONSHIP

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP	SCORES
1906	F.F. Rolland A.E. Abbott	R.E. MacDougall H.B. MacDougall	15-1,15-6,2-15,15-10,11-15,18-13
1907	F.F. Rolland A.E. Abbott	R.E. MacDougall E.J.M. Greenshields	15-12,15-9,6-15,15-11,17-14
1908	R.E. MacDougall H. Molson	F.F. Rolland A.E. Abbott	15-6,10-15,15-3,15-8,15-18,14-17,15-7
1909	F.F. Rolland H.M. Smith	A.E. Abbott G.W. MacDougall	15-9,15-2,15-11,10-15,15-11
1910	R.E. MacDougall A.B. Evans	F.F. Rolland R.N. Hickson	Not Recorded

YEAR	WINNER	RUNNERS-UP	SCORES
1911	R.E. MacDougall A. Wilson	F.F. Rolland G.W. MacDougall	15-4,12-15,14-17,15-8,12-15,15-6,15-6
1912	F.F. Rolland D.W. Hingston	H.B. MacDougall H. Molson	15-11,15-12,18-16,18-16
1913-1914	No Matches		
1915	H.W. Smith K. Molson	A.S. Cassils P. Molson	15-11,15-17,7-15,15-13,15-0,11-15,15-5
1916-1918	No Matches		
1919	A.S. Cassils K. Molson	R.E. MacDougall D.A. Hingston	10-15,15-1,15-9,10-15,15-8,15-3
1920	A. Wilson H.W. Smith	R.E. MacDougall H.B. MacDougall	11-15,15-10,15-7,13-18,9-15,15-7,15-10
1921	A. Wilson S.B. White	R.N. Hickson P. Mackenzie	11-15,8-15,0-15,18-13,15-12,15-6,17-14
1922	A.S. Cassils D.A. Hingston	A. Wilson H.W. Smith	1-15,15-4,18-17,11-15,17-15,15-5
1923	P. Mackenzie R.N. Hickson	G.H. Turpin A. R. Chipman	15-10,15-8,15-12,15-12
1924	P. Mackenzie N.M. Scott	R.N. Hickson D.J. O'Donahoe	4 Games to 3
1925	G.H. Turpin R.M. Redmond	A.S. Cassils D.A. Hingston	4 Games to 2
1926	A. Wilson A.J. Hills	A.S. Cassils D.A. Hingston	Not Recorded
1927	No Matches		
1928	A.S. Cassils A.R. Chipman	A. Wilson G.H. Turpin	15-3,12-15,11-15,9-15,15-5,15-8,17-16
1929	A. Wilson F.C. Dobell	A.S. Cassils A.R. Chipman	4 Games to 2
1930	A. Wilson A.R. Chipman	F.C. Dobell S.H. Dobell	3-15,15-2,3-15,15-12,6-15,15-8,18-15
1931	G.D. Huband G.H. Turpin	A.S. Cassils H. Molson	15-1, 15-9,15-3,15-10
1932	A.R. Chipman S.H. Dobell	A. Wilson N.M. Scott	8-15,16-15,15-7,15-7,12-15,15-8
1933	A.R. Chipman P. Mackenzie	A.S. Cassils T.P. Jones	15-3,15-17,9-15,15-5,9-15,15-4
1934	G.D. Huband C.E. Pacaud	A.S. Cassils A. Wilson	15-1,15-5,15-2,15-11
1935	G.D. Huband A.R. Chipman	A.S. Cassils P. Mackenzie	15-6,15-11,15-9,15-7
1936	C.E. Pacaud W.W. Chipman	L.P. Beaubien J. Gordon	11-15,15-9,15-7,15-10,12-15,15-3
1937	G.D. Huband A.R. Chipman	W.W. Chipman C.E. Pacaud	15-5,15-10,7-15,15-3,15-8
1938	C.G. Benson R. St.L. Granville	W.W. Chipman C.E. Pacaud	8-15,15-4,15-4,7-15,15-5,15-11
1939	G.D. Huband S.H. Dobell	C.E. Pacaud C.G. Benson	15-12,15-2,15-9,15-12
1940	W.W. Chipman C.E. Pacaud	C.G. Benson S.H. Dobell	15-7,15-10,18-13,17-14

RACKETS IN CANADA

YEAR	WINNER	RUNNERS-UP	SCORES
1941-1945	No Matches		
1946	S.H. Dobell C.E. Pacaud	J.A. Rolland R.R. McLernon	15-7,15-6,18-15,15-7
1947	S.H. Dobell C.E. Pacaud	J.A. Rolland J.C. Cushing	18-15,15-10,15-7,15-17,13-15,18-16
1948	W.W. Chipman J.V. Kerrigan	S.H. Dobell C.E. Pacaud	15-10,15-9,15-5,15-8
1949	J.A. Rolland C.E. Pacaud	W.W. Chipman J.V. Kerrigan	15-8,4-15,15-5,13-18,15-7
1950	R.R. McLernon J.V. Kerrigan	C.E. Pacaud J.C. Cushing	15-6,15-8,1-15,15-2
1951	C.E. Pacaud J.C. Cushing	R.R. McLernon J.V. Kerrigan	7-15,15-12,15-7,15-2
1952	C.E. Pacaud J.C. Cushing	R.R. McLernon J.V. Kerrigan	15-11,17-14,15-10
1953	C.E. Pacaud J.C. Cushing	J.A. Rolland D.J. Black	18-15,15-3,15-7
1954	C.E. Pacaud J.C. Cushing	J.V. Kerrigan T.C. Trenholme	15-12,5-15,15-3,15-12
1955	R.R. McLernon J.V. Kerrigan	C.E. Pacaud J.C. Cushing	15-5,15-10,15-12
1956	C.E. Pacaud J.C. Cushing	R.R. McLernon J.V. Kerrigan	16-17, 15-6,15-5,16-13
1957	R.R. McLernon J.V. Kerrigan	T.E. Price T.C. Trenholme	15-6,9-15,18-17,15-10
1958	T.E. Price T.C. Trenholme	R.R. McLernon J.V. Kerrigan	15-6,15-10,13-16,16-13
1959	C.E. Pacaud J.C. Cushing	L.C. Webster J.H. Hale	15-7,15-12,12-15,15-10
1960	D.M. Norman R.M. Bailey	C.E. Pacaud J.C. Cushing	15-6, 15-8,15-9
1961	C.E. Pacaud J.C. Cushing	R.R. McLernon J.V. Kerrigan	11-15,15-5,15-12,15-8
1962	T.E. Price L.C. Webster	D.W. Taylor A.J. Lafleur	15-7,15-4,15-10
1963	R.M. Bailey D.C. Barwick	T.E. Price L.C. Webster	Not Recorded
1964	C.E. Pacaud J.V. Kerrigan	L.C. Webster C.S. Alexander	9-15,15-12,14-16,15-7,15-9
1965	C.E. Pacaud J.V. Kerrigan	T.E. Price D.M. Culver	15-0,15-11,15-12
1966	D.H. McLernon A.J. Coote	R.L. Cooper D. Stoker	15-12,15-12,15-8
1967	T.E. Price D.C. Barwick	D.W. Taylor A.J. Lafleur	15-4,15-11,15-7
1968	A.J. Coote C.H. Pickwood	J.V. Kerrigan D.H. McLernon	12-15,18-16,15-1,15-8
1969	D.H. McLernon T.J. Wagg	J.A. Rolland C.H. Pickwood	Not Recorded
1970	A.J. Coote C.H. Pickwood	D.H. McLernon T.J. Wagg	9-15,11-15,15-2,15-6,15-11

YEAR	WINNER	RUNNERS-UP	SCORES
1971	D.H. McLernon T.J. Wagg	A.J. Coote L.C. Webster	7-15,15-4,15-4,15-5
1972	D.H. McLernon T.J. Wagg	A.J. Coote L.C. Webster	15-7,15-4,15-11
1973	A.J. Coote C.H. Pickwoad	D.H. McLernon T.J. Wagg	10-15,15-10,15-1,15-9
1974	D.H. McLernon T.J. Wagg	C.H. Pickwoad J.W. Smith-Chapman	Not Recorded
1975	C.H. Pickwoad L.C. Webster	D.H. McLernon T.J. Wagg	15-13,15-4,10-15,15-5
1976	D.H. McLernon T.J. Wagg	C.H. Pickwoad L.C. Webster	12-15,18-13,15-4,15-11
1977	D.H. McLernon T.J. Wagg	C.H. Pickwoad L.C. Webster	15-5,9-15,15-4,15-4
1978	D.H. McLernon T.J. Wagg	M.R. McMaster D. McEntyre	15-8,15-5,15-4
1979	D.H. McLernon T.J. Wagg	C.H. Pickwoad D.I. McNeill	15-9,15-10,7-15,15-11
1980	D.H. McLernon T.J. Wagg	M.R. McMaster D. McEntyre	15-5,15-7,15-8
1981	D.H. McLernon T.J. Wagg	C.H. Pickwoad D.I. McNeill	15-5,4-15,15-7,15-11
1982	M.R. McMaster D. McEntyre	R.M. Hart M.G. Huband	13-18,15-7,15-5,15-9
1983	D.H. McLernon R.M. Hart	C.H. Pickwoad D.I. McNeill	15-10,15-8,17-14
1984	D.H. McLernon R.M. Hart	C.H. Pickwoad D.I. McNeill	16-13,15-3,16-13
1985	D.H. McLernon R.M. Hart	T.J. Wagg E.D. Reynolds	15-9,15-11,15-10
1986	D.H. McLernon R.M. Hart	C.H. Pickwoad D.I. McNeill	15-3,15-7,15-6
1987	D.H. McLernon R.M. Hart	C.H. Pickwoad D.I. McNeill	15-6,15-5,15-6
1988	C.H. Pickwoad D. McEntyre	D.H. McLernon R.M. Hart	17-15,16-6,15-9
1989	B. Sambrook T.E. Price	D.H. McLernon R.L. Cooper	15-11,15-13,15-12

MRC JUNIOR RACKETS CHAMPIONSHIP

YEAR	WINNER	RUNNER-UP	SCORES
1896	A. McKim	H.M. Allan	Not Recorded
1897	G. Gillespie	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1898	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1899	C. de B. MacDonald	H.J. Eadie	15-12,15-3,15-11
1900	W.A. Fleming	D.C. Miller	9-15,15-10,15-7,11-15,15-12
1901	W.A. Fleming	W.C. Miller	15-11,6-15,10-15,15-10,15-5
1902	H. Molson	W.M. Skinner	Not Recorded

RACKETS IN CANADA

YEAR	WINNER	RUNNER-UP	SCORES
1903	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1904	E.J.M. Greenshields	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1905	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1906	H. Watson	A. Wilson	Not Recorded
1907	A.H. Gault	K. Turnbull	Not Recorded
1908	B. McPherson	W.J. Ambrose	15-8,12-15,15-10,15-0
1909	J.K.L. Ross	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1910	H.L. Gilmour	D.A. Hingston	15-12,15-8,13-18,15-6
1911	D.J. Barker	R.M. Redmond	6-15,18-16,15-8,15-8
1912	P. Molson	P. Mackenzie	8-15,17-14,15-14,17-14
1913	R.M. Redmond	A.S. Cassils	12-15,15-8,15-4,17-14
1914	K. Molson	G.C. McDonald	8-15,15-5,7-15,15-5,18-15
1915	S.B. White	H.W. Vaughan	Not Recorded
1916-1918	No Matches		
1919	W.E.J. Luther	H.H. Vaughan	18-14,8-15,15-4
1920	A.R. Chipman	P. Mackenzie	15-10,8-15,15-11,15-1
1921	G.H. Turpin	H.H. Vaughan	3 Games to 2
1922	D.J. O'Donahoe	H.H. Vaughan	3 Games to 1
1923	C.F. Batchelder	J.R.S. McLernon	3 Games to 2
1924	N.M. Scott	J.R.S. McLernon	3 Games to 1
1925	G.S. Currie	Not Recorded	Not Recorded
1926	F.C. Dobell	J.F. Grant	Not Recorded
1927	J.A. Rolland	H.C. MacDougall	15-1,15-3,15-0
1928	J.F. Grant	A.T. Paterson	3 Games to 1
1929	S.H. Dobell	H.C. MacDougall	Not Recorded
1930	H.C. MacDougall	H.G. Joseph	3 Games to 0
1931	H.G. Joseph	L.P. Beaubien	Not Recorded
1932	L.P. Beaubien	T.H.P. Molson	6-15,15-7,15-2,15-6
1933	C.G. Benson	H.W. Davis	15-6, 15-9,15-0
1934	C.E. Pacaud	C.E. Price	15-9,15-13,10-15,15-6
1935	A. Powis	C.E. Price	3-15,15-9,15-9,15-10
1936	H.M. Jaquays Jr.	D.J. Black	9-15,15-12,15-12,15-12
1937	D.J. Black	C.E. Price	7-15,16-17,15-8,15-8,15-3
1938	C.E. Price	J. Gordon	7-15,15-3,15-11,17-14
1939	J. Gordon	J.S. Oppe	15-12,10-15,15-12,15-11
1940	R.R. McLernon	H.R. Hampson	15-3,15-6,15-7
1941-1945	No Matches		
1946	J.V. Kerrigan	D.M. Hodgson	15-12,15-10,15-10
1947	J.L. Carter	D.R. McMaster	By Default
1948	T.C. Trenholme	H.G. Lafleur	15-4,15-0,15-5
1949	D.R. McMaster	H.W. Hingston	17-15,18-16,15-3
1950	H.W. Hingston	P.B. Pitcher	14-16,15-9,7-15,15-10,15-6
1951	J.D. Smith	P.B. Pitcher	15-9,15-6,15-6
1952	D. Doheny	H.M. Rawlings	15-10,15-11,15-12
1953	T.J. Wagg	H.L. Price	15-11,15-10
1954	T. Price	D.G. McMaster	15-12,9-15,15-8
1955	A. Lafleur	M.F. Nicholson	15-7,15-10
1956	D.G. McMaster	D.W. Taylor	5-5,6-15,15-5
1957	L.C. Webster	M.F. Nicholson	15-8,15-7
1958	D.W. Taylor	J.H. Hale	15-13,15-10
1959	J.H. Hale	D.N. Stoker	15-5,15-9
1960	M.F. Nicholson	D.C. Barwick	18-17,6-15,15-9
1961	D.M. Culver	D.N. Stoker	15-12,15-4
1962	D.C. Barwick	P. Demers	15-7,15-4
1963	R.L. Cooper	B.H. MacDougall	15-9,11-15,17-14
1964	J.T. Kenward	D.R. Peters	5-15,15-10,15-7
1965	D.R. Peters	D.N. Stoker	15-17,15-7,15-6
1966	D.H. McLernon	R.M. Hart	18-15,15-8
1967	R.M. Hart	I.B. Campbell	15-8,15-12
1968	A.D. McCall	S.L. Cushing	15-12,15-9
1969	D. McEntyre	I.B. Campbell	15-9,15-12

YEAR	WINNER	RUNNER-UP	SCORES
1970	S.L. Cushing	D.N. Stoker	Not Recorded
1971	J.W. Smith-Chapman	D.I. McNeill	15-7,15-4
1972	R.W. Pound	D.I. McNeill	By Default
1973	L. Carr-Harris	M.G. Huband	8-15,15-6,15-11
1974	S. Dunn	M.G. Huband	15-11,16-13
1975	D.N. Stoker	M.G. Huband	15-13,15-11
1976	D.I. McNeill	M.G. Huband	15-2,15-11
1977	M.R. McMaster	M.G. Huband	15-9,15-12,15-12
1978	M.G. Huband	D. Reynolds	17-14,17-16,9-15,15-5
1979	D. Reynolds	M.P. Marks	15-8,15-12,15-10
1980	C.G. Marks	W.B. Beggs	15-7,9-15,15-10,18-15
1981	M.P. Marks	W.B. Beggs	15-7,15-9,15-7
1982	W.B. Beggs	G. Scott	15-8,14-17,9-15,15-13,15-5
1983	G. Scott	S. Pritchard	3 Games to 1
1984	S. Pritchard	H.W. Price	15-6,15-3,15-2
1985	T.E. Price	H.W. Price	15-5,15-7,15-4
1986	C.P.G. Glass	H.W. Price	15-2,15-4,15-5
1987	J. Bjurstrom	S. Maurin	15-8,15-0,15-10
1988	B. Sambrook	H.W. Price	15-10,15-3,15-1
1989	G. Usher-Jones	K. Nemec	15-11,18-16,18-15

CANADIAN AMATEUR SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

YEAR	WINNER	CLUB	RUNNER-UP	CLUB	SCORES
1896	F.F. Rolland	MRC	Not Recorded		Not Recorded
1897	R.S. DeGarmendia	NYRTC	Not Recorded		Not Recorded
1898	Q.A. Shaw	BTRC	Not Recorded		Not Recorded
1899	F.F. Rolland	MRC	Not Recorded		Not Recorded
1900	E.H. Miles	Queen's	F.F. Rolland	MRC	15-4,15-5,15-7
1901	F.F. Rolland	MRC	W.R. Miller	MRC	15-11,15-4,15-11
1902	F.F. Rolland	MRC	R.E. MacDougall	MRC	Not Recorded
1903	W.R. Miller	MRC	F.F. Rolland	MRC	Not Recorded
1904	F.F. Rolland	MRC	Not Recorded		Not Recorded
1905	F.F. Rolland	MRC	Not Recorded		Not Recorded
1906	E. Hewitt	NYRTC	R.E. MacDougall	MRC	15-11,17-14,15-11
1907	R.E. MacDougall	MRC	F.F. Rolland	MRC	5-15,15-10,17-18,8,15-11
1908	F.F. Rolland	MRC	R.E. MacDougall	MRC	15-10,15-7,15-0
1909	F.F. Rolland	MRC	R.E. MacDougall	MRC	2-15,15-12,6-15,15-11,15-12
1910	R.E. MacDougall	MRC	F.F. Rolland	MRC	15-12,15-12,15-9
1911	R.E. MacDougall	MRC	F.F. Rolland	MRC	15-8,15-11,15-10
1912	F.F. Rolland	MRC	R.E. MacDougall	MRC	17-14,15-5,10-15,15-8
1913	E. Greenshields	MRC	J. Crane	BTRC	15-12,15-8,15-4
1914	C.C. Pell	Tuxedo	H.M. Smith	MRC	15-10,15-7,15-5
1915	H.M. Smith	MRC	G.W. MacDougall	MRC	3-15,15-6,15-7,18-15
1916-19	No Matches				
1920	A.S. Cassils	MRC	A. Wilson	MRC	14-17,15-8,10-15,15-7,15-10
1921	C.C. Pell	Tuxedo	H.L. Dixon	RCC	15-5,15-10,15-9
1922	C.C. Pell	Tuxedo	S.J. Mortimer	NYRTC	10-15,15-8,15-4,15-5
1923	J. Gould	PTRC	A.S. Cassils	MRC	15-12,6-15,15-5,15-1
1924	C.C. Pell	Tuxedo	S.J. Mortimer	NYRTC	15-12,15-5,17-16
1925	C.C. Pell	Tuxedo	J.C.F. Simpson	Queen's	Not Recorded
1926	C.C. Pell	Tuxedo	A.S. Cassils	MRC	7-15,15-8,15-3,4-15,15-6
1927	C.C. Pell	Tuxedo	A.S. Cassils	MRC	15-7,15-7,15-5
1928	Hon. C.N. Bruce	Queen's	Not Recorded		Not Recorded

RACKETS IN CANADA

YEAR	WINNER	CLUB	RUNNER-UP	CLUB	SCORES
1929	A.S. Cassils	MRC	S.H. Dobell	MRC	3 Games to 0
1930	Lord Aberdare	Queen's	P.W. Kemp-Welsh	Queen's	By Default (Kemp-Welsh injured)
1931	W.P. Dixon	NYRTC	S.H. Dobell	MRC	15-7,15-7,15-4
1932	Sir J. Child	Prince's	S.H. Dobell	MRC	18-15,5-15,15-16,17-14,17-16
1933	Sir J. Child	MRC	W.P. Dixon	NYRTC	15-9,15-4,15-9
1934	H.D. Sheldon	NYRTC	C.C. Pell	NYRTC	15-9,15-6,15-13
1935	C.C. Pell	Tuxedo	H.D. Sheldon	NYRTC	18-17,15-7,11-15,16-17,15-12
1936	H.D. Sheldon	NYRTC	C.C. Pell	NYRTC	15-3,7-15,15-12,15-10
1937	R. Grant III	NYRTC	J.A. Rolland	MRC	15-7,15-9,15-6
1938	R. Grant III	NYRTC	J.R. Leonard	NYRTC	15-5,15-9,15-7
1939	R. Grant III	NYRTC	C.C. Pell Jr.	NYRTC	15-4,15-5,15-5
1940-45	No Matches				
1946	J.R. Leonard	NYRTC	J.A. Rolland	MRC	15-7,15-8,9-15,15-11
1947	R. Grant III	NYRTC	J.H. Pawle	Queen's	13-18,11-15,15-9,18-15,15-10
1948	J.R. Leonard	NYRTC	R. Taylor	Queen's	11-15,6-15,16-14,15-10,15-4
1949	J.R. Leonard	NYRTC	C.C. Pell Jr.	NYRTC	15-3,16-15,4-15,15-4
1950	R. Grant III	NYRTC	C.C. Pell Jr.	NYRTC	15-0,15-3,15-2
1951	R. Grant III	NYRTC	R.A.A. Holt	Queen's	5-15,15-5,16-13,15-1
1952	R. Grant III	NYRTC	F.F. De Rham	NYRTC	15-11,15-1,15-5
1953	R. Grant III	NYRTC	G.W.T. Atkins	Queen's	15-12,4-15,17-14,13-15,15-10
1954	G.W.T. Atkins	CRTC	S. Pearson	PRTC	Not Recorded
1955	G.W.T. Atkins	CRTC	C.C. Pell	NYRTC	15-1,15-6,15-9
1956	G.W.T. Atkins	CRTC	C. Pearson	NYRTC	15-7,15-6,15-3
1957	C.C. Pell Jr.	NYRTC	C. Pearson	NYRTC	15-9,11-15,15-7,15-10
1958	G.W.T. Atkins	NYRTC	C. Pearson	NYRTC	15-4,15-10,15-9
1959	C.B. Pearson	NYRTC	C.C. Pell Jr.	NYRTC	15-11,15-1,15-6
1960	G.W.T. Atkins	NYRTC	D. Norman	Queen's	15-1,15-1,15-8
1961	R.M. Baillie	MRC	D. Norman	MRC	15-9,14-16,15-12,15-8
1962	D. Norman	MRC	R.M. Baillie	MRC	15-10,15-11,15-11
1963	M. Connell	Queen's	D. Norman	NYRTC	6-15,15-12,11-15,15-5,15-7
1964	J.A. Rolland	MRC	S. Cox	CRTC	15-16,15-9,16-15,15-2
1965	S. Cox	CRTC	C.H. Pickwoad	MRC	15-5,15-7,16-13
1966	C.T.M. Pugh	Queen's	D. Norman	NYRTC	14-15,15-10,15-9,15-9
1967	D. Norman	NYRTC	P. Read	NYRTC	15-6,11-15,17-16,15-2
1968	G.W.T. Atkins	CRTC	A.J. Coote	MRC	15-5,15-5,15-3
1969	D. Norman	Queen's	D.H. McLernon	MRC	15-6,15-8,15-7
1970	D.H. McLernon	MRC	G.W.T. Atkins	CRTC	By Default (Atkins was ill)
1971	D.H. McLernon	MRC	W.J. Surtees	CRTC	15-10,11-15,15-7,15-11
1972	D.H. McLernon	MRC	W.J. Surtees	CRTC	8-15,15-12,15-10,15-18,15-8
1973	W.J. Surtees	CRTC	D.H. McLernon	MRC	15-8,15-11,15-11
1974	W.J. Surtees	CRTC	D.H. McLernon	MRC	9-15,15-7,15-6,9-15,15-9
1975	W.J. Surtees	CRTC	D.H. McLernon	MRC	15-12,7-15,5-15,15-0,15-8
1976	D.H. McLernon	MRC	C.H. Pickwoad	MRC	18-15,15-12,11-15,17-14
1977	W.J. Surtees	CRTC	D.H. McLernon	MRC	15-4,15-12,15-3
1978	W. Boone	Queen's	W.J. Surtees	NYRTC	6-15,17-18,15-13,15-4,15-10
1979	J. Prenn	Queen's	W.J. Surtees	NYRTC	16-18,15-3,15-11,15-11
1980	W. Boone	Queen's	J. Prenn	Queen's	15-10,15-6,16-17,2-15,15-8
1981	J. Prenn	Queen's	W.J. Surtees	NYRTC	18-14,18-13,15-9
1982	J. Prenn	Queen's	D.H. McLernon	MRC	15-5,15-12,15-10
1983	J. Prenn	Queen's	R. Crawley	Queen's	17-14,15-6,18-13
1984	J. Prenn	Queen's	D.H. McLernon	MRC	6-15,17-14,15-10,15-4
1985	J. Prenn	Queen's	D.H. McLernon	MRC	15-10,15-13,13-15,14-17,15-1
1986	J. Prenn	Queen's	D.H. McLernon	MRC	15-6,6-15,15-7,15-10
1987	J. Male	Queen's	N. Barham	NYRTC	15-12,15-7,8-15,15-3
1988	J. Male	Queen's	J. Prenn	Queen's	11-15,15-3,15-7,13-16,15-5
1989	J. Male	Queen's	W. Boone	Queen's	17-14,17-14,15-8
1990	J. Male	Queen's	D.H. McLernon	MRC	15-11,15-2,15-5

CANADIAN DOUBLES RACKETS CHAMPIONSHIP

YEAR	WINNER	CLUB	RUNNERS-UP	CLUB	SCORES
1921	F.T. Frelinghuysen S.G. Mortimer	NYRTC NYRTC	A.S. Cassils A. Wilson	MRC MRC	4-15,18-13,15-11,15-10,15-12
1922	C.C. Pell S.G. Mortimer	NYRTC NYRTC	A.S. Cassils A. Wilson	MRC MRC	15-10,17-14,15-4,15-13
1923	J. Gould L. du P. Irving	PTRC NYRTC	G.R. Fearing III A.S. McKean	BTRC BTRC	18-15,15-12,15-10,15-12
1924	C.C. Pell S.G. Mortimer	NYRTC NYRTC	J. Gould L. du P. Irving	PTRC NYRTC	15-9,15-11,17-14,15-3,9-15, 15-10
1925	J.C.F. Simpson R.C.O. Williams	Queen's Queen's	C.C. Pell S.G. Mortimer	NYRTC NYRTC	12-15,2-15,6-15,15-7,17-14, 15-6,15-5
1926	C.C. Pell A.L. Corey	NYRTC NYRTC	R.N. Hickson P. MacKenzie	MRC MRC	15-6,15-4,15-7,15-7
1927	C.C. Pell A.L. Corey	NYRTC NYRTC	A.S. Cassils A.R. Chipman	MRC MRC	15-3,15-3,15-4,15-11
1928	C.C. Pell S.G. Mortimer	NYRTC NYRTC	A.S. Cassils P.W. Kemp-Welch	MRC Queen's	15-13,8-15,15-8,15-9,15-3
1929	S.H. Dobell F.C. Dobell	MRC MRC	A.S. Cassils G.H. Turpin	MRC MRC	4 Games to 1
1930	Lord Aberdare H.W. Leatham	Queen's Queen's	P.W. Kemp-Welch L.D. Cambridge	Queen's Queen's	2 Games to 1 (P.W. Kemp-Welch injured)
1931	G.D. Huband A.S. Cassils	MRC MRC	A.L. Corey W.P. Dixon	NYRTC NYRTC	15-9,12-15,6-15,15-4,15-4,15-8
1932	A.R. Chipman S.H. Dobell	MRC MRC	A.S. Cassils Sir J. Child	MRC Queen's	15-8,10-15,10-15,6-15,16-13, 15-18,15-11
1933	G.D. Huband Sir J. Child	MRC MRC	W.P. Dixon L.F. Bishop Jr.	NYRTC NYRTC	15-12,15-7,12-15,15-10,15-2
1934	G.D. Huband Sir J. Child	MRC MRC	C.C. Pell J.W. Brooks	NYRTC NYRTC	16-18,15-10,15-6,15-7,0-15,15-5
1935	J.R. Leonard M. Kirkbride	NYRTC NYRTC	W.P. Dixon L.F. Bishop Jr.	NYRTC NYRTC	15-12,15-10,15-2,15-5
1936	G.D. Huband Sir J. Child	MRC MRC	W.P. Dixon O. Phipps	NYRTC NYRTC	11-15,15-5,17-16,15-7,15-5
1937	R. Grant III C.C. Pell Jr.	NYRTC NYRTC	G.D. Huband S.H. Dobell	MRC MRC	15-6,15-4,15-11,16-18,15-5
1938	R. Grant III C.C. Pell Jr.	NYRTC NYRTC	G.D. Huband R. St.L. Granville	MRC MRC	9-15,15-11,15-12,6-15,15-9,15-5
1939	R. Grant III C.C. Pell Jr.	NYRTC NYRTC	L.F. Bishop Jr. J.A. Rolland	NYRTC MRC	17-15,15-14,15-4
1940-45	No Matches				
1946	S.H. Dobell C.E. Pacaud	MRC MRC	J.W. Brooks J.R. Leonard	NYRTC NYRTC	15-9,15-11,15-10,15-17,15-8
1947	J.H. Pawle G.S. Crawley	Queen's Queen's	R. Grant III C.C. Pell Jr.	NYRTC NYRTC	18-15,15-11,15-11,1-15,15-5
1948	J.R. Leonard F.F. DeRham	NYRTC NYRTC	K.A. Wagg R. Taylor	Queen's Queen's	15-9,11-15,15-12,1-15,15-13, 8-15,18-16
1949	J.R. Leonard C.C. Pell Jr.	NYRTC NYRTC	J.A. Rolland C.E. Pacaud	MRC MRC	15-10,15-4,15-10

RACKETS IN CANADA

YEAR	WINNER	CLUB	RUNNERS-UP	CLUB	SCORES
1950	C.C. Pell Jr. K.A. Wagg	NYRTC NYRTC	R. Grant III J.A. Rolland	NYRTC MRC	12-15,15-1,15-9,16-18,18-14
1951	J.R. Leonard F.F. DeRham	NYRTC NYRTC	R. Grant III C.C. Pell Jr.	NYRTC NYRTC	15-3,15-6,16-13
1952	R. Grant III J.A. Rolland	NYRTC MRC	C.C. Pell Jr. K.A. Wagg	NYRTC NYRTC	15-7,15-12,15-4
1953	D.S. Milford J.R. Thompson	Queen's Queen's	K.A. Wagg G.W.T. Atkins	Queen's Queen's	15-12,15-3,15-7
1954	K.A. Wagg G.W.T. Atkins	Queen's Queen's	S. Pearson C. Pearson	PTRC PTRC	11-15,15-8,15-4,15-7
1955	K.A. Wagg G.W.T. Atkins	Queen's Queen's	C.C. Pell Jr. F.F. DeRham	NYRTC NYRTC	7-15,15-6,15-0,15-10
1956	C.C. Pell Jr. F.F. DeRham	NYRTC NYRTC	C. Pearson K.A. Wagg	PTRC Queen's	15-12,11-15,15-11,15-11
1957	C.E. Pacaud J.C. Cushing	MRC MRC	R.R. McLernon J.V. Kerrigan	MRC MRC	4-15,13-16,17-15,15-8,15-9
1958	T.E. Price G.W.T. Atkins	MRC NYRTC	R.R. McLernon J.V. Kerrigan	MRC MRC	15-7,15-10,17-14
1959	J.A. Rolland T.J. Wagg	MRC BTRC	C. Pearson C.C. Pell Jr.	NYRTC NYRTC	17-14,16-13,11-15,15-12
1960	G.W.T. Atkins T.J. Wagg	NYRTC BTRC	D.M. Norman R.M. Bailey	MRC MRC	18-14,9-15,4-15,15-10,15-6
1961	D.M. Norman R.M. Bailey	MRC MRC	R.R. Allen T.E. Price	MRC MRC	13-15,15-2,12-15,15-2,15-4
1962	D.M. Norman R.M. Bailey	MRC MRC	R.R. Allen T.E. Price	MRC MRC	15-6,10-15,15-10,15-5
1963	M.R. Coulman C.T. Swallow	Queen's Queen's	R.M. Bailey R. Bridgeman	MRC Queen's	11-15,15-8,15-6,15-7
1964	C.E. Pacaud J.V. Kerrigan	MRC MRC	J.A. Rolland T.J. Wagg	MRC MRC	15-7,11-15,15-12,15-5
1965	C.H. Pickwood A.J. Coote	MRC MRC	C.E. Pacaud J.V. Kerrigan	MRC MRC	11-15,15-4,6-15,15-2,15-8
1966	T.E. Price D.M. Norman	MRC MRC	T. Pugh W. Cutler	Queen's Queen's	9-15,7-15,15-4,15-8,15-10
1967	T.E. Price D.M. Norman	MRC MRC	C. Scott R.L. Cooper	MRC MRC	15-6,15-7,15-8
1968	J.W.T. Atkins J.A. Rolland	RCC MRC	T.E. Price D.C. Barwick	MRC MRC	12-15,18-16,15-1,15-8
1969	D.H. McLernon M.W. Sales II	MRC DRC	D.M. Norman J.V. Kerrigan	Queen's MRC	9-15,4-15,15-11,15-11,15-6
1970	D.H. McLernon M.W. Sales III	MRC DRC	G.W.T. Atkins D. McSweeney	RCC RCC	15-5,15-4,8-15,15-9
1971	W.J.C. Surtees W. Finkenstaedt	RCC DRC	D.H. McLernon M.W. Sales III	MRC DRC	15-4,7-15,14-17,15-1,15-10
1972	D.H. McLernon M.W. Sales III	MRC DRC	W.J.C. Surtees R. Lightfine	RCC RCC	17-16,15-5,9-15,18-14
1973	J.W. Chapman C.H. Pickwood	MRC MRC	A.J. Coote T.J. Wagg	MRC MRC	8-15,6-15,15-6,15-12,15-10
1974	W.J.C. Surtees R. Lightfine	RCC RCC	A.J. Coote T.J. Wagg	MRC MRC	11-15,15-7,15-12,15-11
1975	C.H. Pickwood D.H. McLernon	MRC MRC	A.J. Coote M.W. Sales III	MRC DRC	15-7,11-15,15-10,15-8

YEAR	WINNER	CLUB	RUNNERS-UP	CLUB	SCORES
1976	C.H. Pickwoad D.H. McLernon	MRC MRC	A.J. Coote M.W. Sales III	MRC DRC	15-13,15-7,15-5
1977	C.H. Pickwoad D.H. McLernon	MRC MRC	Not Recorded		Not Recorded
1978	W.R. Boone C.T.M. Pugh	Queen's Queen's	C.H. Pickwoad D.H. McLernon	MRC MRC	15-8,15-8,15-8
1979	W.R. Boone C.T.M. Pugh	Queen's Queen's	G.P.D. Milne W.J.C. Surtees	Queen's RCC	15-2,15-5,10-15,17-14
1980	W.R. Boone R.S. Crawley	Queen's Queen's	C. Hue Williams J.A.N. Prenn	Queen's Queen's	15-10,15-12,18-17
1981	J.A.N. Prenn C.J.H. Green	Queen's Queen's	W.J.C. Surtees A.R. Bonsor	RCC Queen's	15-5,10-15,10-15,17-16,15-12
1982	J.A.N. Prenn C. Hue Williams	Queen's Queen's	C.H. Pickwoad D.H. McLernon	MRC MRC	15-3,15-8,15-11
1983	W.R. Boone R.S. Crawley	Queen's Queen's	C.H. Pickwoad D.H. McLernon	MRC MRC	15-9,15-0,17-14
1984	J.A.N. Prenn A.N.W. Beeson	Queen's Queen's	R.S. Crawley A. Crawley	Queen's Queen's	15-10,15-10,8-15,15-6
1985	R.S. Crawley A. Crawley	Queen's Queen's	C.H. Pickwoad D.H. McLernon	MRC MRC	18-16,15-8,9-15,15-10
1986	J.A.N. Prenn C. Hue Williams	Queen's Queen's	C.H. Pickwoad D.H. McLernon	MRC MRC	15-11,15-8,15-12
1987	C.H. Pickwoad D.H. McLernon	MRC MRC	J.S. Male N. Barham	Queen's NYRTC	8-15,4-15,15-0,18-16,15-12
1988	J.S. Male N. Barham	Queen's NYRTC	C.H. Pickwoad D.H. McLernon	MRC MRC	2 Games to 1
1989	J.S. Male N. Barham	Queen's NYRTC	J.A.N. Prenn W.R. Boone	Queen's Queen's	12-15,15-13,15-9,15-18,15-11
1990	J.S. Male N. Barham	Queen's NYRTC	C.H. Pickwoad D.H. McLernon	MRC MRC	15-2,15-6,11-15,15-6

ABBREVIATIONS:

Boston Tennis & Racquet Club (BTRC)
 Detroit Racquet Club (DRC)
 Montreal Racket Club (MRC)
 New York Racquet & Tennis Club (NYRTC)
 Philadelphia Tennis & Racquet Club (PTRC)
 Queen's Club (Queen's)
 Racquet Club, Chicago (RCC)
 Tuxedo Tennis & Racket Club (Tuxedo)

MONTREAL RACKET CLUB MEMBERS 1889-1990

Abbott, A.E.	1889	Beggs, W.B.	1977	Campbell, I.B.	1961
Abbott, J.B.	1889	Bell, R.D.	1915	Campbell, W.B.	1973
Acer, J.H.A.	1915	Bell-Irving, B.H.	1947	Candler, L.P.	1954
Acer, J.F.	1928	Bennett, H.	1957	Cantlie, S.S. Jr.	1929
Acer Jr., J.H.	1928	Bennett, J.	1976	Cantlie, S.S.T.	1930
Adair, R.A.S.	1914	Benson, C.G.	1931	Cape, E.G.M.	1920
Agnew, D.	1989	Benson, G.F.	N/A	Cape, J.M.	1925
Aitken, A.A.	1924	Benson Jr., G.F.	1921	Carr-Harris, L.	1962
Aitken, A.O.	1957	Beresford, D.M.	1926	Carter, J.LeM.	1945
Alcorn, H.	1986	Birks, J.E.	1936	Carthew, A.W.H.	1958
Alexander, C.S.	1955	Birks, P.F.	1937	Casey, P.	1976
Alexander, J.W.	1980	Birrell, R.	1981	Cassils, A.S.	1910
Allan, A.	1893	Bishop, J.W.	1950	Cassils, I.G.	1930
Allan, G.S.	1988	Bjurstrom, J.	1984	Cassils, M.H.	1937
Allan, H.	1914	Black, A.	1987	Chambers, G.	1981
Allan, J.A.H.	1976	Black, D.J.	1933	Chambers, W.D.	1924
Allan, M.M.	1950	Black, I.H.	1973	Chauvin, R.A.	1975
Allan, Sir H.M.	1889	Black, L.G.	1931	Chevalier, A.	1911
Allen, R.	1981	Blackader, G.H.	1914	Child, Sir J.	1932
Anderson, A.D.	1915	Blackader, K.G.	1925	Chipman, A.R.	1915
Angas, D.J.	1985	Blaiklock, S.T.	1946	Chipman, J.H.	1930
Angus, D.J.	1900	Blake, F.	1925	Chipman, W.W.	1924
Angus, W.F.	1894	Blake, H.H.	1925	Christie, P.S.	1975
Anker, P.A.	1965	Blakely, H.	1984	Churchill-Smith, J.	1974
Applegath, E.R.D.	1895	Bond, W.L.	1911	Clark, J.	1970
Aris, J.	1939	Boulter, G.R.	1916	Clarke, A.C.	1947
Arnold, T.T.	1928	Boulton, A.M.	1936	Claxton, J.B.	1952
Ashe, F.W.	1893	Boutin, R. de L.	1957	Cleveland, Dr. E.T.	1948
Atkinson, T.M.	1935	Bouverie, L.B.	1929	Clouston, Sir E.S.	1889
Baillie, D.J.	1975	Bowie, Col. D.B.	1906	Clouston, W.S.	1892
Baillie, F.	1967	Boyd, J.A.	1935	Cloutier, E.	1952
Baillie, J.F.	1946	Bradley, T.	1988	Clubb, J.B.	1970
Baillie, M.	1981	Brainard, D.	1969	Cobbett, S.H.	1980
Baldwin, D.K.	1935	Brainerd, H.W.	1904	Cochrane, D.A.	1975
Bales, R.C.	1984	Brainerd, T.C.	1937	Cogswell, J.E.	1978
Balfour, G.S.	1911	Brainerd, W.	1965	Colhoun, S.D.	1963
Ballantyne, C.C.	1956	Brainerd, W.	1909	Colville, A.B.	1921
Ballantyne, C.T.	1931	Brakeley, G.	1950	Conglton, Lord	1919
Ballantyne, J.	1935	Bricoe, R.	1984	Connacher, J.R.	1963
Ballantyne, M.G.	1930	Brimacombe, L.	1917	Cook, G.H.	1924
Ballon, E.M.	1975	Broadhead, E.R.	1937	Cook, G.W.	1893
Barber, A.H.	1977	Brodeur, M.	1955	Cooper, C.A.	1986
Bariot, E.J.	1915	Brodie, A.B.	1921	Cooper, R.L.	1962
Barker, D.J.	1908	Brooks, J.W.	1942	Coote, A.J.	1970
Barlow, F.W.	1913	Broome, G.	1988	Coristine, C.G.	1917
Barnard, C.A.	1912	Brophy, P.	1913	Coristine, E.	1930
Barnes, C.	1988	Brown, G.S.	1924	Coristine, E.S.	1945
Barwick, B.C.	1977	Browne, H.D.	1914	Coristine, P.	1930
Barwick, D.C.	1953	Budden, F.C.	1909	Coristine, S.B.	1911
Batchelder, C.F.	1921	Burland, H.W.	1910	Coristine, W.	1917
Bauld, Dr. W.A.G.	1927	Burland, Lt. Col. J.H.	1902	Cornez, L.	1970
Bauld, N.A.	1927	Burnett, H.	1913	Côté, P.	1975
Beardmore, F.N.	1895	Bush, G.E.	1975	Cottingham, D.	1985
Beatty, E.W.	1913	Butterworth, C.E.	1962	Cottingham, W.	1981
Beaubien, L.G.	1907	Cains, G.L.	1911	Coulson, H.	1969
Beaubien, L.P.	1927	Cameron, P.A.G.	1972	Coulson, J.E.	1967
Beauclerk, H.W.	1910	Campbell, C.	1911	Counsell, E.M.	1946
Beer, J.W.	1963	Campbell, D.B.	1969	Cowan, D.	1947

Cowans, H.	1982	Drury, V.	1975	Gilmour, H.L.	1920
Cowans, J.	1977	Drury, V.M.	1926	Gilmour, J.	1900
Cowen, J.H.	1990	Duffield, A.R.	1937	Gilmour, K.F.	1920
Cowen, W.L.	1986	Duncan, J.H.	1946	Glass, C.P.G.	1983
Craig, R.H.	1950	Dunlop, G.P.G.	1916	Glassco, J.G.	1928
Creery, P.A.	1965	Dunn, B.	1979	Glassco, M.	1927
Creighton, D.	1984	Dunn, P.	1973	Glassco, R.	1983
Creighton, D.D.	1954	Dunn, P.	1982	Glassford, D.M.	1955
Creighton, W.R.	1919	Dunn, R.J.	1990	Glassford, H.B.	1930
Crombie, A.A.	1924	Dunn, S.	1972	Glen, J.D.	1967
Crossen, W.	1934	Dunn, T.H.	1950	Gordon, B.	1929
Cullen Jr., H.L.	1969	Dunton, A.D.	1937	Gordon, C.A.	1976
Culver, D.M.	1959	Dupuy, G.K.	1971	Gordon, C.H.	1928
Culver, M.	1984	Durnford, P.E.	1924	Gordon, G.B.	1931
Cundill, F.H.	1930	Dwyer, D.F.	1961	Gordon, J.	1931
Cundill, R.E.	1972	Dyson, P.	1981	Gordon, L.	1972
Currie, G.S.	1919	Eadie, H.G.	1895	Gordon, R.	1970
Currie, G.S.	1960	Eakin, W.R.	1939	Gordon, Sir C.B.	1912
Cushing, G.K.	1938	Eberts, E.H.	1935	Gould, J.P.	1989
Cushing, J.	1983	Edgar, L.L.	1911	Graham, A.R.	1987
Cushing, J.C.	1930	Ekers, H.A.	1919	Graham, A.M.	1973
Cushing, S.L.	1967	Ekers, L.A.	1910	Grant, A.	1928
Danks, A.	1937	Elvidge, F.	1988	Grant, J.F.	1926
Davidson, G.D.	1937	Emmett, N.	1973	Grant, W.A.	1901
Davidson, G.H.	1932	Ensio, M.	1969	Granville, B.	1935
Davidson, H.G.	1916	Evans, A.B.	1914	Gratz, J.	1925
Davidson, T.	1903	Evans, E.C.	1895	Greenshields, C.G.	1910
Davidson, W.K.	1932	Evans, T.W.	1990	Greenshields, E.B.	1902
Davis, D.F.	1951	Ewing, R.L.H.	1920	Greenshields, E.J.	1902
Davis, H.W.	1932	Fairbanks, F.C.	1910	Greenshields, J.G.	1910
Davis, Sir M.B.	1889	Fairbanks, F.H.	1932	Greenshields, M.	1910
Dawes, H.J.	1920	Fairlie, J.	1915	Grivakes, T.	1970
Dawes, P.N.	1937	Farmer, G.A.	1889	Guard, F.H.W.	1911
Dawson, D.B.	1946	Farrell, G.W.	1909	Guest, Hon. L.G.	1903
Day, B.	1956	Farrell, M.	1946	Guest, R.R.	1927
Dean, E.C.	1927	Federer, A.	1988	Hackett, D.L.	1959
Demers, P.	1954	Ferrabee, F.G.	1945	Hackett, J.	1969
Dennis, M.	1967	Fielding, R.J.	1976	Hale, J.H.	1955
Denny, D.	1926	Firstbrook, B.D.	1962	Ham, K.	1977
Denton, R.L.	1946	Flemming, F.G.	1960	Hampson, E.G.	1913
Diepen, F.W.	1981	Flood, H.C.	1930	Hampson, H.A.	1966
Dixon, J.A.	1960	Flood, T.C.	1952	Hampson, H.R.	1926
Dixon, P.L.	1984	Forster, J.A.	1958	Hampson, R.	1911
Dixon, W.P.	1950	Fortier, L.Y.	1963	Hanson, C.S.	1921
Dobbs, D.	1983	Francis, A.N.	1952	Hanson, E.G.	1919
Dobell, A.C.	1897	French, A.K.	1910	Hanson, J.	1985
Dobell, F.C.	1916	French, C.D.	1960	Hardinge, C.	1981
Dobell, S.H.	1924	Galipeault, A.	1969	Hardinge, Viscount	1952
Dobell, W.M.	1890	Gallagher, A.J.P.	1908	Harmon, L.M.	1914
Dodds, W.O.H.	1913	Gamey, R.	1986	Hart, C.	1966
Dodge, Jno. B.	1910	Gardiner, E.N.P.	1981	Hart, C.F.	1930
Doheny, D.D.	1945	Gates, G.L.	1928	Hart, E.T.	1915
Doheny, H.	1945	Gaudet, C.D.	1921	Hart, L.M.	1936
Doheny, W.	1947	Gaudet, J.E.	1902	Hart, R.M.	1967
Domville, J.	1947	Gault, A.H.	1901	Hart, R.	1970
Donohue, C.	1967	Gault, R.C.L.	1908	Hart, W.J.	1938
Doucet, R.P.	1897	Gibblin, W.	1986	Haslett, L.W.	1931
Douglas, B.W.	1974	Gill, E.	1936	Hawkins, C.F.	1909
Douglas, J.A.	1898	Gillespie, A.R.	1931	Hawkins, E.J.E.	1909
Downie, I.	1987	Gillespie, B.	1969	Heap, J.M.	1912
Drummond, G.M.	1912	Gillespie, G.S.	1895	Hebden, E.R.W.	1921
Drury, C.M.	1938	Gillespie, P.	1931	Heenan, R.L.	1977
Drury, G.C.	1927	Gillett, R.C.	1911	Heeney, A.D.P.	1933

Hely-Hutchinson, C.	1985	Johnson, Dr. L.	1953	MacDougall, G.H.	1971
Hemmingson, B.	1981	Johnson, D.	1980	MacDougall, G.H.	1937
Henderson, G.	1924	Johnson, D.C.	1949	MacDougall, G.W.	1897
Henderson, G.W.S.	1917	Johnson, E.	1986	MacDougall, H.B.	1897
Henderson, K.	1945	Johnson, P.E.	1988	MacDougall, H.C.	1925
Henderson, S.M.	1970	Johnston, J.A.	1911	MacDougall, H.M.	1956
Henderson, T.G.	1930	Johnston, R.	1953	MacDougall, J.	1978
Hendeson, J.P.	1955	Jones, D.	1988	MacDougall, P.L.	1935
Hendy, G.	1984	Jones, T.P.	1924	MacDougall, R.	1986
Heneker, R.T.	1892	Joseph, H.	1900	MacDougall, R.E.	1899
Henward, J.H.	1968	Joseph, H.G.	1925	Macfarlane, L.	1911
Heward, G.	1988	Kaulbach, R.E.	1981	MacInnes, D.A.	1922
Heward, J.	1987	Keeping, G.P.	1947	MacInnes, W.R.	1893
Hickson, R.N.	1900	Kennedy, R.H.	1928	Macintosh, J.P.	1928
Hills, A.J.	1919	Kenward, J.T.	1963	MacKay, A.	1932
Hingston, Dr. D.H.	1906	Kerr, R.	1988	MacKay, D.C.	1965
Hingston, H.R.	1911	Kerrigan, B.	1987	MacKay, H.	1934
Hingston, P.	1946	Kerrigan, J.V.	1945	MacKell, P.R.D.	1962
Hingston, R.B.	1914	Kierans, T.	1966	MacKenzie, A.	1958
Hirsh, S.E.	1977	Killam, I.W.	1924	MacKenzie, A.A.	1910
Hodgson, A.A.	1910	Kingman Jr., A.	1914	MacKenzie, E.A.	1921
Hodgson, C.A.	1915	Kingstone, H.D.	1910	MacKenzie, J.G.	1912
Hodgson, D.M.	1932	Kippen, J.D.G.	1917	MacKenzie, P.	1910
Hodgson, H.W.	1924	Kirkpatrick, W.M.	1911	Mackintosh, D.	1956
Hodgson, M.	1924	Lafleur, A.J.	1960	MacLean, C.W.	1921
Holland, G.A.	1913	Lafleur, B.	1988	MacLelland, J.	1986
Holt, Sir H.S.	1892	Lafleur, H.G.	1933	MacNutt, E.A.	1909
Holt, W.R.G.	1931	Lafleur, H.P.	1960	MacNutt, E.A.	1925
Hooper, G.R.	1911	Laing, P.M.	1950	MacPherson, S.	1921
Hooton, F.G.	1966	Lamontagne, P.	1985	Macrae, A.W.S.	1978
Hope, R.A.	1969	Landau, R.	1983	MacTier, A.D.	1892
Hope, W.	1890	Landry, W.A.	1926	Magee, A.A.	1913
Hosmer, C.R.	1900	Langan, F.F.	1973	Mais, A.J.	1984
Hovey, C.W.	1975	Languedoc, E.	1925	Major, G.R.	1902
Howard, Dr. C.P.	1924	Lanquedoc, D.B.	1955	Marks, C.G.	1971
Howard, R.P.	1929	Laughlin, W.K.	1953	Marks, M.P.	1974
Howlett, P.A.	1969	Lawson, A.G.	1931	Marler, J.M.	1938
Howson, R.M.	1970	Lawson, G.	1975	Martin, C.J.	1971
Huband, G.D.	1929	Lees, C.N.	1975	Martin, M.C.	1981
Huband, M.G.	1965	Leggat, W.	1910	Mather, M.G.	1953
Hucal, G.	1984	Leggat, W.H.	1930	Mather, N.L.C.	1924
Hugessen, Hon. A.K.	1921	Lemessurier, E.	1955	Mather Jr., N.L.C.	1930
Hughes, R.	1987	Leslie, Col. J.N.S.	1911	May, F.	1889
Hughson, G.D.	1971	Leslie, C.W.	1949	McAvity, J.M.	1946
Hull, B.G.	1966	Lewin, H.M.S.	1931	McCall, A.D.	1964
Hutchison, F.L.	1915	Lewis, G.G.	1911	McCarthy, T.	1982
Hyde, G.M.	1931	Lewis, M.	1911	McConnell, J.W.	1924
Hyde, I.	1953	Lieven, Lt. Col. P.	1946	McConnell, P.G.	1975
Irwin, R.H.	1915	Lightfine, R.	1969	McConnell, W.G.	1935
Iversen, J.	1989	Linton, O.H.	1920	McCuaig, C.N.	1912
Iversen, P.S.	1982	Lloyd-Jones, R.	1907	McCuaig, G.E.	1919
Ivory, A.	1989	Look, R.V.	1931	McCuaig, Maj. D.R.	1917
Jackson, E.G.	1927	Lotbiniere, E.	1947	McCulloch, A.L.	1934
Jackson, G.P.	1970	Louson, J.F.	1968	McCulloch, J.L.	1906
Jackson, T.	1977	Lovett, H.A.	1916	McDonald, G.C.	1910
Jamieson, E.T.	1910	Lowrey, J.D.	1924	McDougall, E.	1911
Jaquays, H.M.	1899	Lucas, A.	1913	McEntyre, D.M.	1968
Jaquays Jr., H.M.	1933	Luther, W.E.G.	1913	McGibbon, D.L.	1905
Jarvis, A.T.	1911	Macarow, D.C.	1911	McGibbon, S.R.	1910
Jarvis, G.C.	1950	Macaulay, N.H.	1924	McGill, F.S.	1934
Jellett, R.P.	1925	MacDonald, C. de B.	1889	McGregor, D.J.	1964
Jessop, A.	1967	MacDonald, L.I.	1975	McGregor, J.A.	1980
Jessop, P.	1972	MacDougall, B.H.	1961	McGregor, R.	1959

McIlvane, W.	1963	Morgan, H.W.	1921	Paterson, J.B.	1911
McIntyre, J.M.	1889	Morgan, J.	1974	Paton, H.	1889
McIntyre, J.R.O.	1979	Morgan, J.B.	1938	Patton, A.T.	1953
McKewen, K.	1971	Morrice Jr., D.	1911	Payson, L.R.	1983
McKim, A.	1894	Morrice, W.J.	1897	Pease, E.R.	1921
McKim, A.C.	1930	Morton, J.N.	1949	Peck, I.H.	1946
McKim, A.R.	1959	Morton, P.S.	1979	Peck, J.B.	1924
McLagan, P.W.	1971	Murphy, P.W.	1916	Peck, R.L.	1911
McLean, D.W.	1945	Nash, N.F.	1902	Penfield, Dr. W.G.	1930
McLennan, W.D.	1927	Nation, E.M.	1981	Perron, C.	1982
McLeod, M.	1934	Neill, C.E.	1914	Perry, K.M.	1934
McLernon, C.F.	1986	Nelson, D.	1978	Peters, D.R.	1963
McLernon, D.H.	1969	Nemec, K.	1985	Peverley, F.R.	1933
McLernon, J.R.	1966	Nesbitt, A.D.	1945	Pickwood, C.H.	1967
McLernon, J.R.S.	1919	Nesbitt, A.R.D.	1967	Pitcher, P.B.	1938
McLernon, L.P.	1971	Nesbitt, G.	1964	Pitcher, R.P.	1976
McLernon, R.A.	1946	Nesbitt, J.A.	1945	Pitfield, Hon. P.M.	1985
McLernon, R.A.M.	1979	Nicholai, M.W.	1984	Porteous, B.H.	1920
McLernon, R.R.	1938	Nicholson, M.F.	1952	Porteous, G.	1910
McLintock, G.	1960	Nicoll, M.	1988	Porteous, J.G.	1936
McMartin, D.C.	1971	Nixon, P.B.	1975	Porteous, Lt. Col. C.F.	1928
McMartin, I.W.	1978	Nobbs, P.F.S.	1974	Potter, N.F.	1978
McMaster, D.G.	1955	Norris, H.B.	1933	Pound, R.W.	1968
McMaster, D.R.	1933	Norris, J.H.	1953	Powell, R.E.	1933
McMaster, D.S.	1930	Norsworthy, S.C.	1919	Powis, A.	1933
McMaster, M.R.	1964	Ogilvie, A.E.	1896	Price, B.H.	1988
McNeill, D.I.	1965	Ogilvie, B.M.	1930	Price, C.E.	1932
McNeill, D.J.	1949	Ogilvie, G.L.	1902	Price, D.A.	1958
McNeill, J.	1974	Ogilvie, M.	1970	Price, D.M.	1969
Meager, J.J.	1909	Ogilvie, S.	1905	Price, H.	1954
Merck, G.	1946	Ogilvie, W.W.	1922	Price, H.W.	1962
Meredith, C.	1911	Oppe, J.D.	1910	Price, H.W.	1979
Meredith, F.E.	1905	Oppe Jr., J.S.	1935	Price, J.H.	1928
Merrett, F.E.	1913	Osler, G.F.	1931	Price, M.S.	1984
Merritt, S.	1930	Osler, P.F.	1932	Price, P.D.	1970
Millar, H.	1970	Oswald, W.C.	1915	Price, R.H.	1928
Millen, S.B.	1940	Oswald, W.W.	1917	Price, T.E.	1955
Miller, D.C.S.	1895	Ouimet, P.	1978	Price, T.E.	1984
Miller, W.	1922	Owen, D.S.	1960	Price, T.R.	1973
Miller, W.R.	1889	Owen, S.F.	1978	Price, W.	1952
Mills, D.S.	1958	Owen, W.H.	1921	Price, W.A.	1984
Mitchell, A.F.	1905	O'Brien, E.M.	1909	Pringle, A.	1911
Mitchell, B.	1986	O'Brien, L.S.	1975	Pritchard, S.	1982
Mofford, I.	1989	O'Brien, W.P.	1898	Purvis, A.B.	1959
Molson, C.J.G.	1921	O'Connor, J.	1969	Purvis, B.	1952
Molson, E.H.	1964	O'Donahoe, D.J.	1920	Rankin, D.M.	1955
Molson, F.S.	1924	O'Grady, F.G.	1909	Rankin, J.	1954
Molson, G.H.E.	1922	O'Reilly, W.H.	1934	Rawlings, E.C.	1935
Molson, H. de M.	1928	Pacaud, C.E.	1933	Rawlings, H.M.	1945
Molson, H.	1900	Pacaud, T.	1966	Rea, F.T.	1948
Molson, H.W.	1914	Page, J.	1989	Rea, K.G.	1911
Molson, J.H.	1920	Page, W.	1914	Reaper, T.A.	1960
Molson, K.	1911	Pangman, J.B.	1921	Reardon, K.	1981
Molson, M.	1986	Pangman, J.J.M.	1905	Redmond, R.M.	1908
Molson, P.	1905	Papineau, J.R.W.	1912	Redmond, C.J.	1904
Molson, R.I.	1983	Papineau, T.M.	1912	Redpath, M.E.	1908
Molson, S.	1967	Parker, Lt. Col. C.G.	1945	Redpath, R.F.	1911
Molson, T.H.P.	1924	Parsons, A.J.	1985	Redpath, W.	1907
Molson, W.	1984	Pascoe, C.J.	1984	Reed, G.	1930
Molson, W.	1911	Paterson, A.	1911	Rees Jr., H.M.	1968
Moore, T.A.G.	1935	Paterson Jr., A.T.	1920	Reford, Dr. L.L.	1902
Moreland, J.K.	1980	Paterson, H.J.A.	1984	Reid, F.A.	1934
Morgan, F.C.	1911	Paterson, H.McD.	1911	Reynolds, E.D.	1975

RACKETS IN CANADA

Rich, P.P.J.	1978	Shaughnessy, A.F.	1906	Teare, J.Q.	1975
Richardson, J.B.	1930	Shaughnessy, Lord	1908	Thibeault, C.	1988
Richardson, J.H.	1922	Shaughnessy, Lord	1948	Thom, J.	1959
Richardson, O.B.	1926	Shaw, R.B.	1930	Thompson, N.	1959
Riddell, M.	1962	Sherwood, M.H.E.	1962	Thornton, J.N.	1931
Rider, P.R.	1959	Simms, H.H.	1910	Thornton, Sir H.W.	1924
Riley, R.	1989	Sise, C.F.	1910	Timmins, J.T.	1965
Ritchie, R.J.	1981	Sise, E.F.	1914	Timmins, R.A.	1946
Ritchie, R.L.	1917	Sise, H.E.	1932	Timmins, R.A.	1963
Robb, P.H.	1936	Sise, P.F.	1900	Todd, Dr. J.L.	1909
Robertson, A.W.	1956	Skaife, W.T.	1893	Todd, G.M.	1933
Robertson, D.V.	1947	Skelton, J.A.	1960	Tooley, G.	1989
Robertson, G.R.	1930	Skinner, R.S.	1917	Tottenham-Smith, R.N.	1962
Robertson, J.C.	1976	Skinner, W.W.	1901	Townsend, C.V.M.	1933
Robin, C.B.	1911	Skutesky, E.M.	1986	Toy, K.G.	1935
Robinson, H.B.	1921	Smith, A.L.	1922	Travers, J.S.	1974
Robinson, W.W.	1919	Smith, C.F.	1910	Trenholme, T.C.	1947
Rogers, A.	1921	Smith, D.	1977	Trim, G.K.	1936
Rolland, A.	1990	Smith, E.G.	1933	Trott, D.	1989
Rolland, A.F.	1927	Smith, H.M.	1908	Trowe, J.B.	1939
Rolland, F.A.	1925	Smith, H.S.	1899	Turnbull, G.	1915
Rolland, F.F.	1889	Smith, J.D.	1949	Turnbull, H.H.	1979
Rolland, F.F.L.	1921	Smith-Chapman, J.W.	1970	Turnbull, K.	1904
Rolland, J.A.	1927	Southam, D.C.	1948	Turner, A.D.	1986
Rolland, J.D.	1955	Southam, F.N.	1913	Turner, J.N.	1954
Rolland, S.A.	1912	Spafford, E.	1921	Turner, P.M.	1966
Rolph, F.M.	1959	Speirs, A.H.	1962	Turner, R.	1970
Ronalds, H.J.	1949	Speirs, A.M.	1985	Turner, W.I.	1963
Rose, E.	1962	Spencer, R.	1970	Turner, W.I.M.	1983
Ross, G.H.	1970	Stavert, W.E.	1961	Turpin, G.H.	1919
Ross, H.I.	1945	Stenason, D.	1986	Tyler, J.A.	1961
Ross, J.	1892	Stephens, G.W.	1898	Usher-Jones, G.	1980
Ross, J.K.L.	1889	Stephens, L. de K.	1901	Van Horne, R.B.	1915
Ross, J.K.M.	1925	Stephenson, J.E.W.	1932	Vaughan, A.M.	1933
Ross, T.	1985	Stephenson, P.J.T.	1956	Vaughan, H.H.	1909
Ross, W.G.	1914	Stephenson, S.P.	1976	Vaughan, J.A.	1953
Russel, B.D.	1945	Steven, R.C.	1914	Veitch, W.J.	1952
Russel, C.M.	1928	Stevens, J.M.	1976	Velan, I.	1970
Russel, B.	1919	Stevens, R.M.	1985	Vickers, A.R.	1930
Rykert, E.G.	1897	Stevenson, A.G.	1932	Vickers, D.	1975
Sambrook, B.	1988	Stevenson, D.	1988	Von Kauffman, D.	1990
Sanders, S.R.	1928	Stevenson, H.A.	1934	Waddington, T.B.	1980
Sare, R.G.	1924	Stewart, D.	1981	Wagg, T.J.	1961
Savage, E.B.	1910	Stewart, D.W.	1935	Wainman, C.G.	1932
Savage, G.C.	1937	Stoker, D.N.	1952	Walker, D.S.	1914
Savage, H.	1930	Stoker, P.McG.	1953	Walker, F.T.	1914
Savage, J.F.	1927	Stoker, T.McG.	1926	Walker, H.P.	1940
Savage, J.M.	1931	Stoker, T.T.McG.	1980	Wallace, J.R.	1932
Savage, M.	1987	Strachan, K.G.	1907	Wallis, H.M.	1925
Savage, M.	1932	Strong, G.M.	1933	Walsh, L.O.P.	1932
Savage, W.K.	1954	Stuart, Sir C.A.	1913	Walters, P.R.	1922
Scott, C.R.	1966	Stuart, T.C.	1947	Wanklyn, W.	1977
Scott, G.	1985	St. Granville, R.	1937	Wanstall, G.H.	1934
Scott, H.	1914	Sullivan, M.R.	1966	Ward, R.	1912
Scott, H.M.	1919	Sutherland, L.H.D.	1922	Watson, G.A.	1903
Scott, N.M.	1922	Sutherland, W.	1934	Watson, H.	1904
Scott, P.H.	1930	Suttie, E.R.	1946	Watson, J.C.	1904
Sewell, L.A.	1927	Sweatman, M.	1982	Watson, S.W.	1920
Seybold, J.E.	1946	Tait, Sir T.	1914	Wattiez, A.	1986
Seymour, H.F.	1939	Taylor, D.W.	1955	Webb, W.	1978
Shannon, C.J.	1988	Taylor, G.	1975	Webster, D.C.	1959
Sharp, J.W.	1949	Taylor, G.D.	1955	Webster, J.R.	1961
Shaughnessy, T.B.	1962	Taylor, J.K.	1955	Webster, L.C.	1954

Weigand, W.B.	1930	Winkworth, P.	1980	Yates, A.M.	1921
Weir, G.G.	1910	Winslow, T.H.	1926	Yates, C.M.	1926
White, D.A.	1925	Wirth, A.	1969	Young, M.D.	1973
White, S.B.	1911	Wolvin, D.F.	1957	Young, P.S.	1947
Whitnall, Dr. S.E.	1921	Wood, J.	1911	Young, R.B.	1957
Williamson, G.	1911	Wood, L.	1911	Yuile, C.L.	1926
Williams-Taylor, Sir F.	1914	Wylde, Lt. Col. C.F.	1906	Yuile, D.S.	1930
Wilson, A.	1903	Wynn, J.M.	1950	Yuile, J.W.	1930
Wilson, A.A.	1896	Yalden-Thompson, D.	1948	Yuile, R.D.	1953
Wilson, W.A.	1917	Yarnell, J.R.	1965	Yull, F.M.	1971

HONORARY MEMBERS

1909	G.A. Farmer	1945	G.C. McDonald	1962	L.P. Beaubien
1913	J.B. Abbott	1945	R.L. Peck	1962	J.A. Rolland
1913	C. de B. MacDonald	1946	L.F. Bishop	1963	C.H. Gordon
1918	H.D. Kingstone	1946	H.R. Hingston	1963	J.P. Macintosh
1920	A. Hamilton Gault	1946	G.S. Balfour	1963	H. de M. Molson
1920	H.M. Paterson	1946	G.G. Lewis	1963	J.H. Price
1921	W.W. Burland	1946	S.B. White	1963	R.H. Price
1922	F.F. Rolland	1948	G.A. Holland	1965	T.G. Henderson
1925	A.E. Abbott	1949	H.W. Molson	1965	N.L.C. Mather
1925	H. Montagu Allan	1950	A.R. Chipman	1965	A.C. McKim
1925	F.R. May	1950	Eddie Rodgers	1965	D.S. Yuile
1925	W.R. Miller	1952	R. Grant III	1966	A.R. Gillespie
1925	Hugh Paton	1952	G.W.S. Henderson	1966	J. Gordon
1925	W.M. Dobell	1952	L. Brimacombe	1966	L.W. Haslett
1925	W. Hope	1954	B. Russel	1966	H.M.S. Lewin
1926	R.T. Heneker	1954	J.R.S. McLernon	1967	J.C. Cushing
1926	C.R. Hosmer	1954	W.R. Creighton	1967	H.W. Davis
1929	J.K.L. Ross	1954	A.J. Hills	1967	D.M. Hodgson
1929	H.B. MacDougall	1955	G. Henderson	1967	A.O. MacKay
1930	A.B. Evans	1955	N.J. Dawes	1967	P.F. Osler
1931	A.F. Mitchell	1955	H.L. Gilmour	1968	D.J. Black
1932	H.C. Clark	1955	J.H. Molson	1968	W.K. Davidson
1932	T.S. Gillespie	1955	A.T. Paterson	1968	H.G. Lafleur
1933	G.W. MacDougall	1956	G.F. Benson Jr.	1968	D.R. McMaster
1934	D.A. Hingston	1956	E.R.B. Hebdon	1968	E.G. Smith
1934	H.M. Jacquays Sr.	1956	H.W. Morgan	1968	J.R. Wallace
1934	R.E. MacDougall	1956	A. Rogers	1969	Tony Bertolotti
1934	W.P. O'Brien	1956	E. Spafford	1969	F.S. McGill
1934	A.E. Ogilvie	1957	W. Miller	1969	H.B. Norris
1935	P.F. Sise	1957	A. Smith	1969	C.E. Pacaud
1935	Herbert Molson	1958	C.C. Pell Jr.	1969	F.A. Reid
1935	R.N. Hickson	1959	A.A. Crombie	1969	A.M. Vaughan
1935	C.C. Pell	1959	S.H. Dobell	1970	G.W.T. Atkins
1937	G.L. Ogilvie	1959	T.P. Jones	1970	P.L. MacDougall
1937	Alex Wilson	1959	T.H.P. Molson	1970	T.A.G. Moore
1937	Henry Joseph	1960	K.G. Blackader	1970	J.S. Oppe
1939	C.J. Redmond	1960	H.H. Blake	1971	A.M. Boulton
1939	J.N.S. Ogilvie	1960	H.G. Joseph	1971	L.N. Buzzell
1939	J.C. Watson	1960	H.C. MacDougall	1971	L.M. Hart
1939	Hugh Watson	1960	W.W. Ogilvie	1971	P.H. Robb
1943	P. MacKenzie	1960	D.A. White	1971	G.K. Trim
1943	R.M. Redmond	1961	J.F. Grant	1972	G.C. Savage
1945	S.R. Coristine	1961	H.R. Hampson	1973	F.R. Broadhead

1973	A. Dawes	1981	J.V. Kerrigan	1986	G.A. Brakeley
1973	R.R. McLernon	1981	J.A. Nesbitt	1986	T.H. Dunn
1973	J.B. Morgan	1981	K.A. Wagg	1988	J.A.N. Prenn
1974	J.D. Barnett	1982	J.W. Duncan	1988	J.B. Claxton
1974	P.B. Pitcher	1982	M. Sales	1988	A.N. Francis
1976	S.D. Colhoun	1983	T.C. Stuart	1988	Dr. L. Johnson
1976	P.B. Read	1984	R.H. Turner	1988	M. Mather
1978	K.J. Chantler	1984	J.W. Sharp	1988	M.F. Nicholson
1979	E.T. Cleveland	1984	Lord Shaughnessy	1988	J.W. Price
1980	B.D. Russel	1985	J.N. Morton	1988	A.B. Purvis
1981	D. Doheny	1985	H.J. Ronalds	1988	P. McG. Stoker
1981	H. Doheny	1985	C.D. Johnston	1989	D.C. Barwick
1981	C.H. Drury	1985	P.M. Laing	1989	J.H. Norris

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Dedication, Jamie McIntyre
Foreword, Michael Huband
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